IF YOU CAN'T TAKE TERROR, DON'T READ...

The CLUTCHING HAND

SHOCK! HORROR! FEAR! IMPACT!

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The REAL McCOY!

MY PLAN CAN'T FAIL, BLACKIE--NOT WITH THESE!

IT BETTER NOT, PAL--OR ELSE!

WEALTHY YOUNG OLIVER McCOY HAD GROWN FAT--WITH LIVING OFF THE FAT OF THE LAND! THE SON OF A MILLIONAIRE, HE HAD EVERYTHING, INCLUDING A GROWING PAUNCH! SOME SAID HE OUGHT TO TAKE SOME OF THAT FLESH OFF--AND THAT'S OUR GORY STORY--

IT ALL STARTED IN BLACKIE ROME'S GAMBLING CASINO--

BUT POOR OLIVER'S LUCK WAS BAD ALL NIGHT! FINALLY--

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WHEN THE WEEK WAS UP --

NEXT DAY -- AT THE McCOY MANSION --

SEVERAL DAYS PASSED--
GUESS YOUR FOLKS AIN'T COMIN' THROUGH, OLLIE-BOY! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME A BREAK, BLACKIE! I HAVE A WAY FIGURED TO SCARE THEM INTO PAYING--BUT I'LL NEED SOME CHEMICALS AND LAB EQUIPMENT!

YOU BETTER NOT BE STALLIN' FAT STUFF! WHAT'S ALL THIS JUNK FOR?
I MAJORED IN CHEMISTRY BACK IN COLLEGE--AND I LEARNED ABOUT A SECRET NEW PLASTIC WHICH LOOKS AND FEELS EXACTLY LIKE HUMAN FLESH!

WE'LL WRITE MY FOLKS ANOTHER NOTE, TELLING THEM THAT IF THEY DON'T SEND THE MONEY, THEY'LL RECEIVE A DIFFERENT PART OF MY BODY EVERY DAY TILL THEY DO! CLEVER?

AT THE McCOYS'--WHEN THE LETTER WAS READ...
SEEMS LIKE OLIVER'S GROWING DESPERATE--BUT I THINK HIS JOKE'S IN POOR TASTE!
DEAR CHILD, WHAT A GRUESOME IMAGINATION HE HAS!

LOOKS LIKE YOU McCOYS DON'T LIKE EACH OTHER MUCH! YOUR FOLKS AIN'T PAYIN'!
THIS'LL DO THE TRICK, BLACKIE--WAIT AND SEE!

PACKAGE FOR YOU, SIR--BY SPECIAL MESSENGER!
STRANGE, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE ORDERED ANYTHING--

OH, NO! IT'S A--HUMAN FINGER!
OLIVER'S! OHHHHHHHH--

HEPZIBAH, MY DEAR! CONTROL YOURSELF!
OH, POOR, POOR OLIVER! HE'S IN THE HANDS OF FIENDS! THEY'RE DISMEMBERING HIM!

OH, MY POOR, MAIMED DARLING! WHY DIDN'T WE BELIEVE YOU?
I'LL START GETTING THE MONEY TOGETHER! NOW WHERE DID MY PIPE FALL TO--?

HE FOUND IT--JUST AS A HOT ASH ACCIDENTALLY STRUCK THE AWFUL FINGER! THEN--SUDDENLY--
AH, HERE-- BY JOVE, HEPZIBAH-- LOOK!
IT--IT'S BURNING-- LIKE CELLOPHANE!
FSSSSSS

YES, AN ACCIDENT HAD REVEALED THE FLAW IN THE PLASTIC--
IT WENT UP IN A PUFF OF SMOKE! IT WAS A FAKE! HA-HA!
OH, THAT NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY BOY! HE GAVE ME A TERRIBLE FRIGHT!

WHEN THE GANGSTERS STILL RECEIVED NO PAYMENT--
YOU BETTER THINK UP SOMETHING NEW, FAT BOY-- YOUR FOLKS DON'T SCARE EASY! I THINK, YOU'RE PLAYIN' US FOR SUCKERS!
YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY-- PLEASE!

I'M LOSIN' PATIENCE, OLLIE-- AN' THAT'S BAD!
IT'LL WORK, BLACKIE-- IT HAS TO!

ANOTHER PACKAGE, MR. McCOY!
HMMM, WONDER WHAT IT IS THIS TIME?
OLIVER NEVER STOPS TRYING!

GOOD LORD!
IT...IT'S GHASTLY! DIGBY, I THINK IT'S THE REAL THING!

IT--DOES LOOK--REAL! BUT DON'T GET PANICKY, HEPZIBAH-- NOT TILL I'VE PUT IT TO THE TEST!
WE--WE MAY BE BURNING POOR OLIVER'S FLESH!

BUT ONCE AGAIN THE GRISLY HOAX WAS REVEALED--
YOU SEE? ANOTHER FAKE!
SOMETIMES I WISH HE WERE JUST A LITTLE YOUNGER, SO I COULD SPANK HIM!
POUF!

AND SO--
YOU BEEN PLAYIN' GAMES WITH ME, FAT BOY-- I STILL AIN'T GOT THE DOUGH!
WAIT, BLACKIE! YOU-- YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME MORE TIME!

I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!-- WAIT! LISTEN! DON'T-- DON'T!

NEXT DAY--
ANOTHER PACKAGE FOR YOU, SIR-- SAME HANDWRITING AS BEFORE!
THIS IS GROWING TEDIOUS! THROW THAT FAKERY INTO THE FIRE!

BUT WHEN THE WRAPPING BURNED OFF THE PACKAGE, THE CONTENTS DID NOT POP AND EXPLODE! INSTEAD, AN AWFUL ODOR FILLED THE ROOM--
HEPZIBAH, LOOK! THAT THING'S NOT BURNING!
IT-IT CAN'T BE!
--FOR THIS TIME IT WASN'T A FAKE! THIS TIME IT WAS--THE REAL McCOY! --THE END--

MURDER IS A THING FOR DARK ALLEYS, YOU'D THINK! AND DRIPPING BLOOD, THE MOANS OF DYING VICTIMS---WHERE ELSE BUT IN THE DARK, SECRET HAUNTS OF THE UNDERWORLD? THE POLICE THOUGHT SO TOO---UNTIL THEY LEARNED THE AWFUL HORROR OF---

FLOWERING DEATH!

HIS NAME'S **ALBERT ROSE**, MR. HILTON---AND HE WAS SEEN AROUND HERE BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED! BUT I GUESS A MAN LIKE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING!

DEAR, DEAR, NO! I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT EYES FOR ONLY MY **FLOWERS**, YOU SEE!

NEXT DAY---AT HEADQUARTERS--

NOW IT'S HENRY ASTOR WHO'S TURNED UP MISSING---LAST SEEN NOT FAR FROM THE HILTON ESTATE! IF OLD HILTON WEREN'T SUCH A KINDLY OLD DUFFER---

RELAX, BROPHY! ED HILTON WOULDN'T HURT A FLY! HIS ONLY INTEREST IS IN FLOWERS!

POLICE

THERE WAS NO WAY OF THEM KNOWING WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THIS VERY MOMENT---

SO SORRY, MRS. GOLD--BUT I HAD TO DO THIS!

AI-EEE!

DAYS LENGTHENED INTO WEEKS--- AND AS THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES CONTINUED---

SO WHAT IF SEVERAL OF THEM WERE SEEN NEAR THE HILTON PLACE? QUIT HARPING ON THAT---HE'S A WEALTHY, PROMINENT CITIZEN WITH ONLY ONE HARMLESS ECCENTRICITY ---HIS MANIA FOR COLLECTING FLOWERS!

BUT WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH SOME SUSPECTS, COMMISSIONER! GOLLY, IT STARTED WITH ALBERT ROSE---AND THERE'S BEEN MRS. GOLD AND HENRY ASTOR AND THAT SMITH GIRL AND--- WAIT!

ALBERT ROSE---ROSE! HENRY ASTOR---ASTER! MRS. MARY GOLD--- MARIGOLD! AND THE SMITH DAME---DAISY SMITH! DON'T YOU GET IT? FLOWER NAMES, EVERYONE OF THEM--- AND THAT OLD SO-AND-SO COLLECTS FLOWERS! CALL OUT A SQUAD-CAR---AND LET'S GET GOING!

FRANTICALLY, THEY SPED TOWARDS THEIR DATE WITH DEATH---ARRIVING JUST IN TIME TO SEE---

IRIS---SUCH A PRETTY NAME--- SUCH A LOVELY FLOWER TO ADD TO MY OTHER BEAUTIES---

HOLY SMOKE! LET HIM HAVE IT, MEN!

ARGGH!

YES, POLICE .45'S ARE EFFECTIVE--- EVEN IF THEIR EFFECTS AREN'T PRETTY TO WITNESS---

BAM!

UH--!

BAM!

BAM!

THEY DIDN'T HAVE FAR TO SEARCH! WITHIN A HEAVILY-LOCKED HOTHOUSE---CLOSED OFF FROM PRYING EYES BY HEAVY SHADES---

NOT EXACTLY LIFELIKE, IS IT, COMMISSIONER? I--I GUESS MAYBE I'D CALL IT FLOWERING DEATH!

Genus ROSE

Genus ASTER

Genus MARIGOLD

Genus DAISY

THE END

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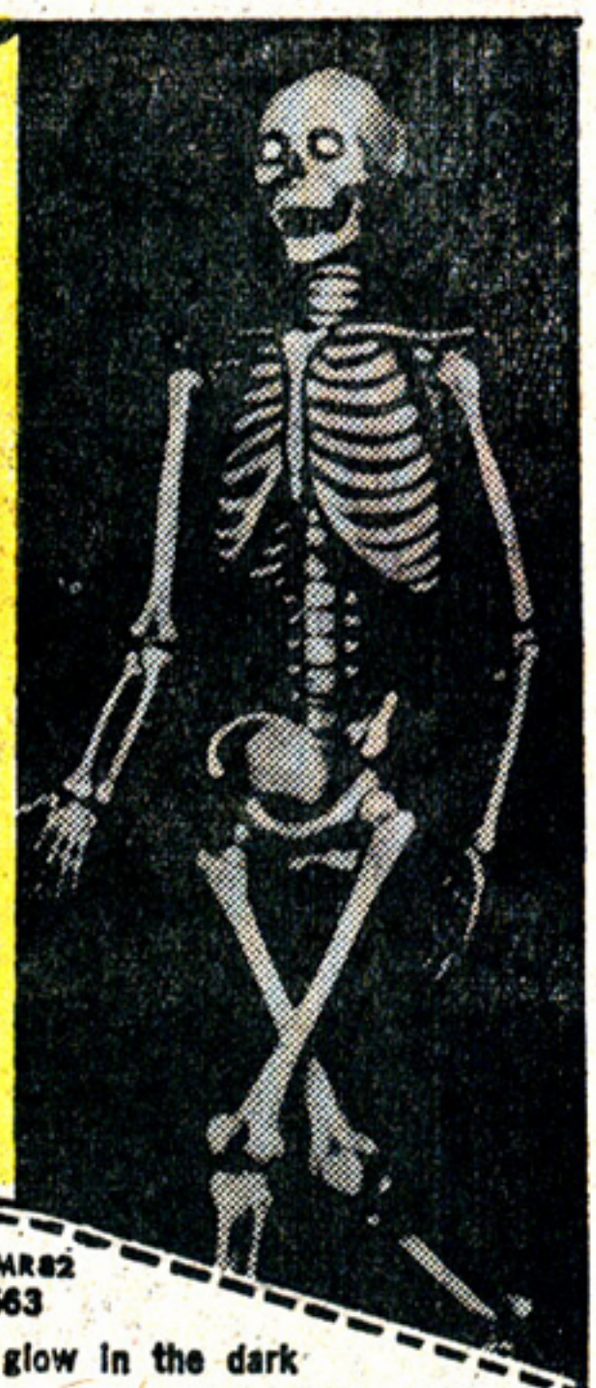

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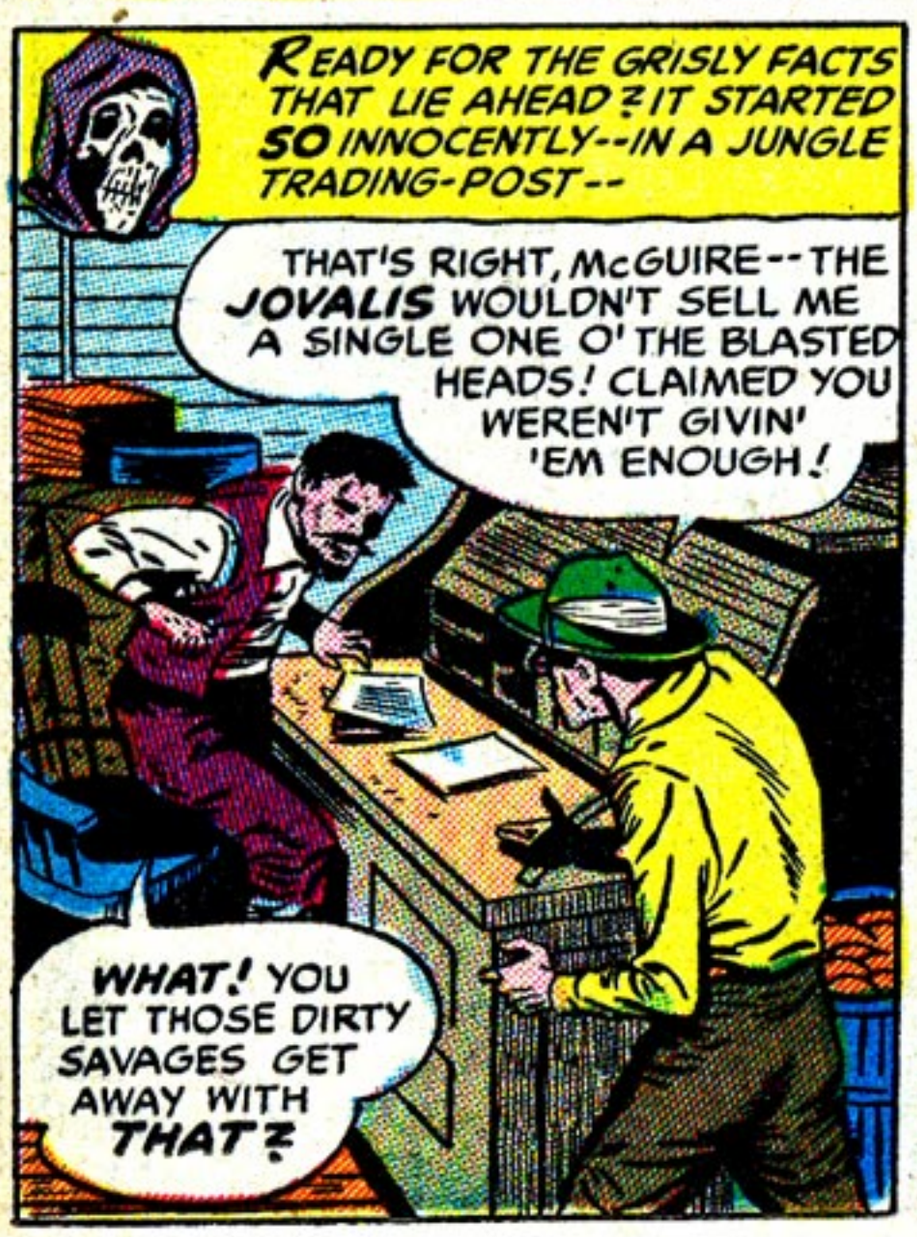
HA-HA-HA! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF DEATH--ALL YOU PITIFUL MORTALS OUT THERE? AND WHO BETTER FIT TO TELL YOU THAN THE GRIM REAPER? TRY NOT TO TREMBLE, WEAK FOOLS, WHILE I TELL YOU THE STORY OF HOW A MAN DIED IN THE JUNGLE--SCREAMING! AND WHILE THE BLOOD DRIPS, YOU'LL HEAR A TALE OF HORROR--OF HOW NATIVE MAGIC DELIVERED THE QUAKING SOUL OF A MURDERER INTO MY CLUTCHING HAND--OF THE AWFUL TERROR THAT LAY WITHIN...

The TINY HEADS!

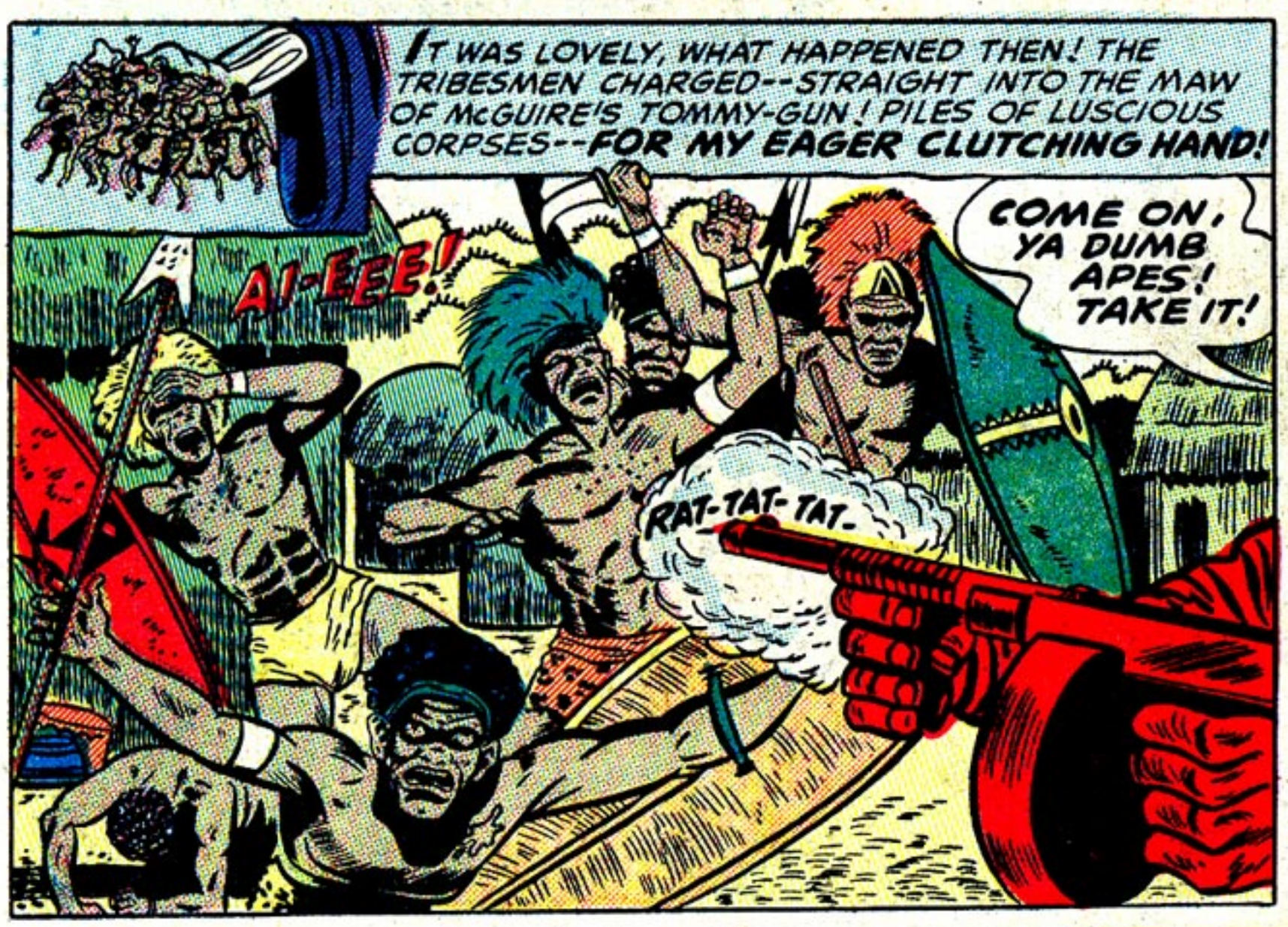
THE LITTLE MONSTERS HAVE--COME TO LIFE! HELP! HELP!



AND SO McGUIRE HEADED INTO THE JUNGLE, HEADED FOR THE JOVALIS-- AND MALOKA, THE OLD CHIEF! THEY DIDN'T SEE ME, BUT I WAS ON HAND, TOO! I SCENTED BUSINESS!

MALOKA NO LONGER SELL HEADS TO YOU! CAN GET MORE GOLD FROM OTHER WHITE MEN!
YA WON'T BE WANTIN' TA SELL TA OTHER TRADERS, YA RAT-- NOT WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH YA!

POW!


IT WAS LOVELY, WHAT HAPPENED THEN! THE TRIBESMEN CHARGED--STRAIGHT INTO THE MAW OF McGUIRE'S TOMMY-GUN! PILES OF LUSCIOUS CORPSES--FOR MY EAGER CLUTCHING HAND!
AI-EEE!
COME ON, YA DUMB APES! TAKE IT!
RAT-TAT-TAT-

YOUR-- YOUR DEATH SHALL BE MY REVENGE! I SWEAR IT!
MY DEATH, EH? NOW AIN'T THAT NICE!

YA MIND IF I CARRY OUT A COUPLA MY OWN PLANS FIRST?
ARRGH!

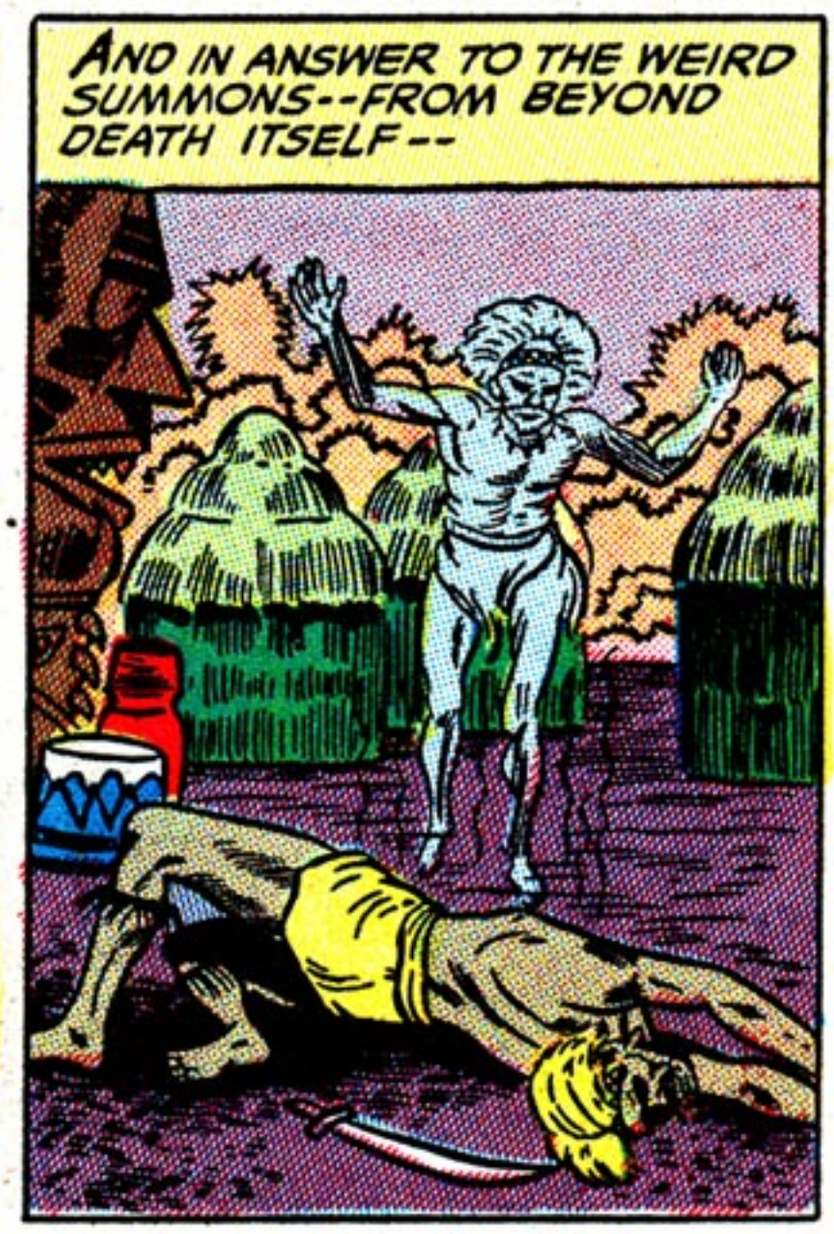
LIKE THIS, F'RINSTANCE!

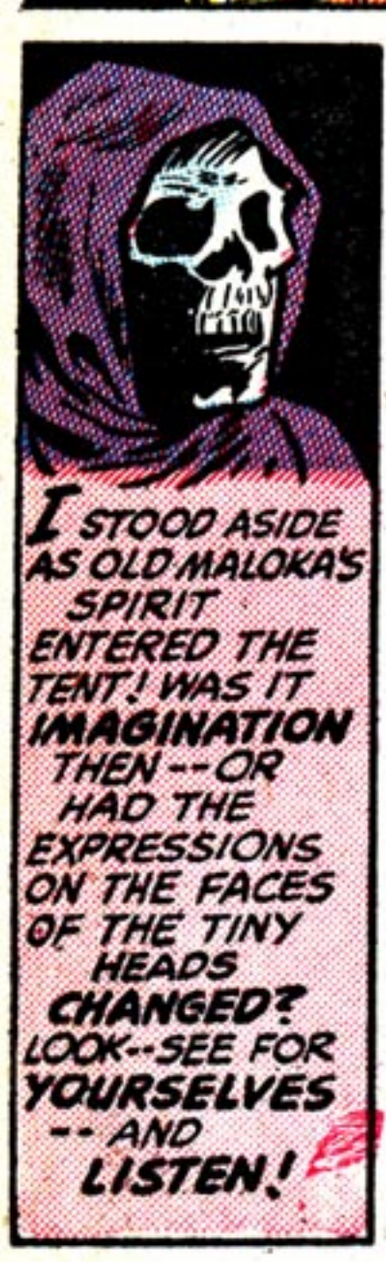
THAT WAS ALL--SIMPLE, WASN'T IT? JUST SCREAMS OF PAIN--A LITTLE BLOOD--AND McGUIRE HAD HIS HEADS--FREE!
I CAN SELL THIS BATCH FOR PLENTY! SO MALOKA WAS GONNA DEAL WITH OTHER TRADERS, HUH? TCH, TCH!

McGUIRE SLEPT HAPPILY THAT NIGHT! TOUCHING, ISN'T IT-- HOW UNAWARE HE WAS OF MY PRESENCE! YES, HE STILL HAD HIS LIFE THEN--AND HIS BLOOD---

---AND HE HAD HIS HEADS--HIS TINY HEADS---

FROM DEEP IN THE JUNGLE CAME THE HOLLOW BOOMING OF A DRUM! EVEN IF McGUIRE HAD HEARD IT, HE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT THIS WAS NO REAL DRUM--THAT NO LIVING HANDS BEAT IT!
BOOM
BOOMA
BOOM


AND IN ANSWER TO THE WEIRD SUMMONS--FROM BEYOND DEATH ITSELF--


I STOOD ASIDE AS OLD MALOKA'S SPIRIT ENTERED THE TENT! WAS IT IMAGINATION THEN--OR HAD THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE FACES OF THE TINY HEADS CHANGED? LOOK--SEE FOR YOURSELVES --AND LISTEN!

GR-RRRRR

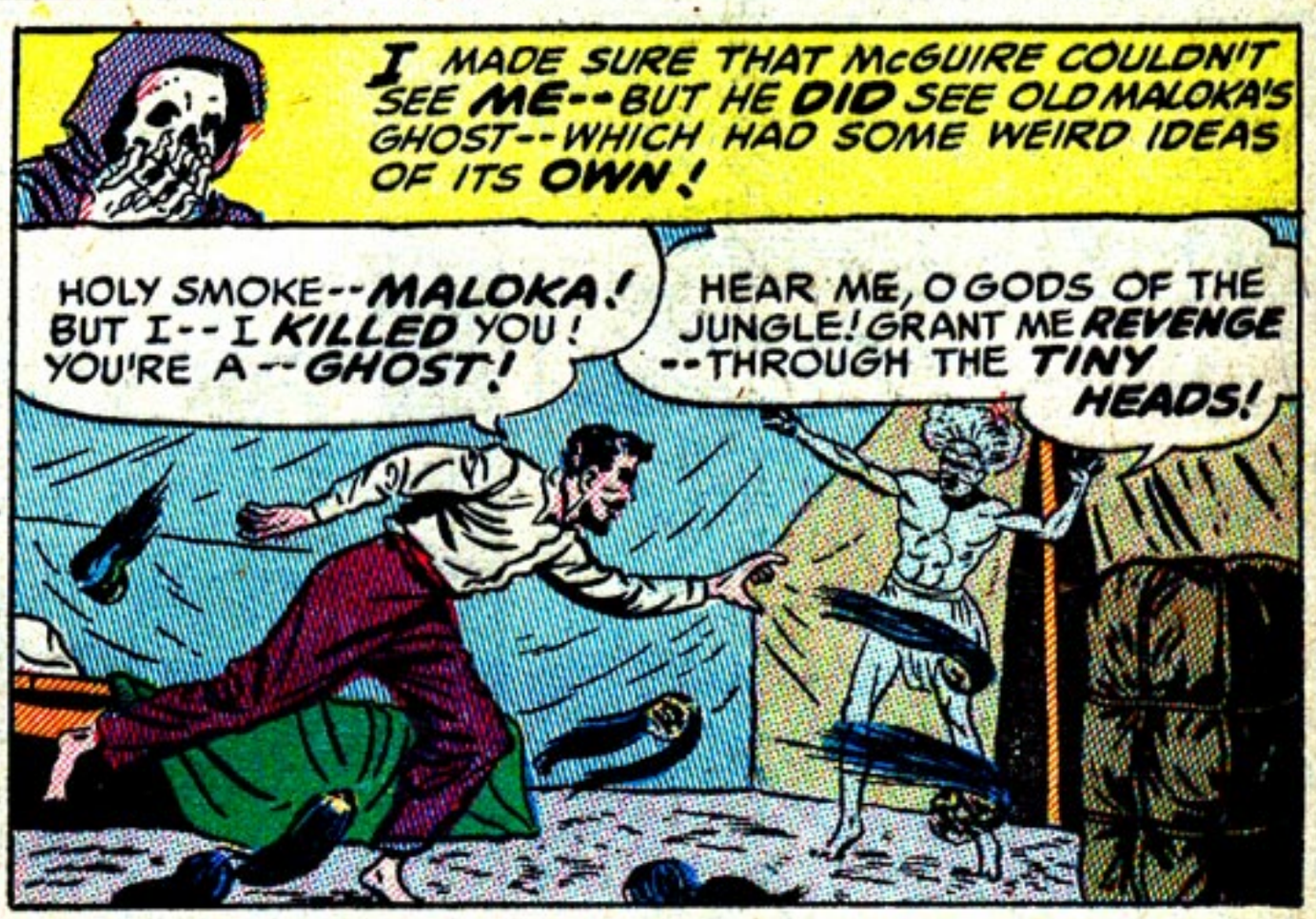
THEN--
SWISH

THUD!
BONK!
BOP!

AH, LOOK AT THEM GO, THE LITTLE BEAUTIES! WATCH THEM SEARCH FOR A SOUL--FOR MY CLUTCHING HAND! HA-HA!
BONK!
BONK!

YES, THEY SEARCHED FOR A SOUL --McGUIRE'S SOUL--WITH RENDING TEETH THAT REDDENED WITH HIS BLOOD!
OH, GOOD HEAVENS, WHAT--OW-WWW! HELP!
GRRRRR!

I'LL GET YOU LITTLE MONSTERS AWAY-- AND SMASH YOU---
EEE-EEEEE!


I MADE SURE THAT McGUIRE COULDN'T SEE ME--BUT HE DID SEE OLD MALOKA'S GHOST--WHICH HAD SOME WEIRD IDEAS OF ITS OWN!
HOLY SMOKE--MALOKA! BUT I--I KILLED YOU! YOU'RE A--GHOST!
HEAR ME, O GODS OF THE JUNGLE! GRANT ME REVENGE --THROUGH THE TINY HEADS!

HOW YOU WOULD HAVE LAUGHED--LAUGHED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED THEN! IT WAS TRIBAL MAGIC THAT GAVE THE TINY HEADS SPECTRAL BODIES--AND NOW THEY GROUPED FOR A FIGHT TO THE FINISH--McGUIRE'S FINISH!
ARR-RRRR... GRR-ROWW!
OH, N-NO--NO! THEY'RE T-TINY, COMPLETE DWARVES NOW--AND THEY'RE COMIN' FOR ME AGAIN!

ARRRGH! HELP! H-HELP!

THE BATTLE WAS AT ITS CLIMAX NOW -- AND MY CLUTCHING HAND WAS HUNGRY FOR PREY! THEY'D FORCED HIM TO HIS KNEES, THE LITTLE DARLINGS -- AND I SAW WHY MALOKA'S GHOST HAD BROUGHT ALONG THE MACHETE!
LET ME GO -- OH, PLEASE, LET ME GO!
HERE -- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

YES, THEY KNEW WHAT TO DO -- AND THEY DID IT!
SWISH!
HA-HA-HA!
HA-HA
HA-HA
ARGH!

AND SO MALOKA GOT HIS REVENGE, WHICH WAS SIMPLY FINE -- BECAUSE I GOT McGUIRE! -- OH, YES! THERE WAS A BIT MORE TO THE STORY! THE FOLLOWING WEEK -- BACK AT THE TRADING-POST --
W-WHAT'S THAT? WHO'S THERE?
KNOCK! KNOCK!

I D-DON'T GET IT! NOBODY AROUND -- NOTHIN' BUT THAT BAG! BETTER TAKE A LOOK-SEE WOT'S IN IT!

BLIMEY -- McGUIRE KEPT HIS WORD! HE SAID THERE'D BE A LOAD O' THESE TINY HEADS ARRIVIN', AND HE WAS RIGHT!

SAY, THAT LAST HEAD -- IT'S SORTA -- IT LOOKS LIKE -- OH, MY HEAVENS, N-NO!

McGUIRE!
THE END

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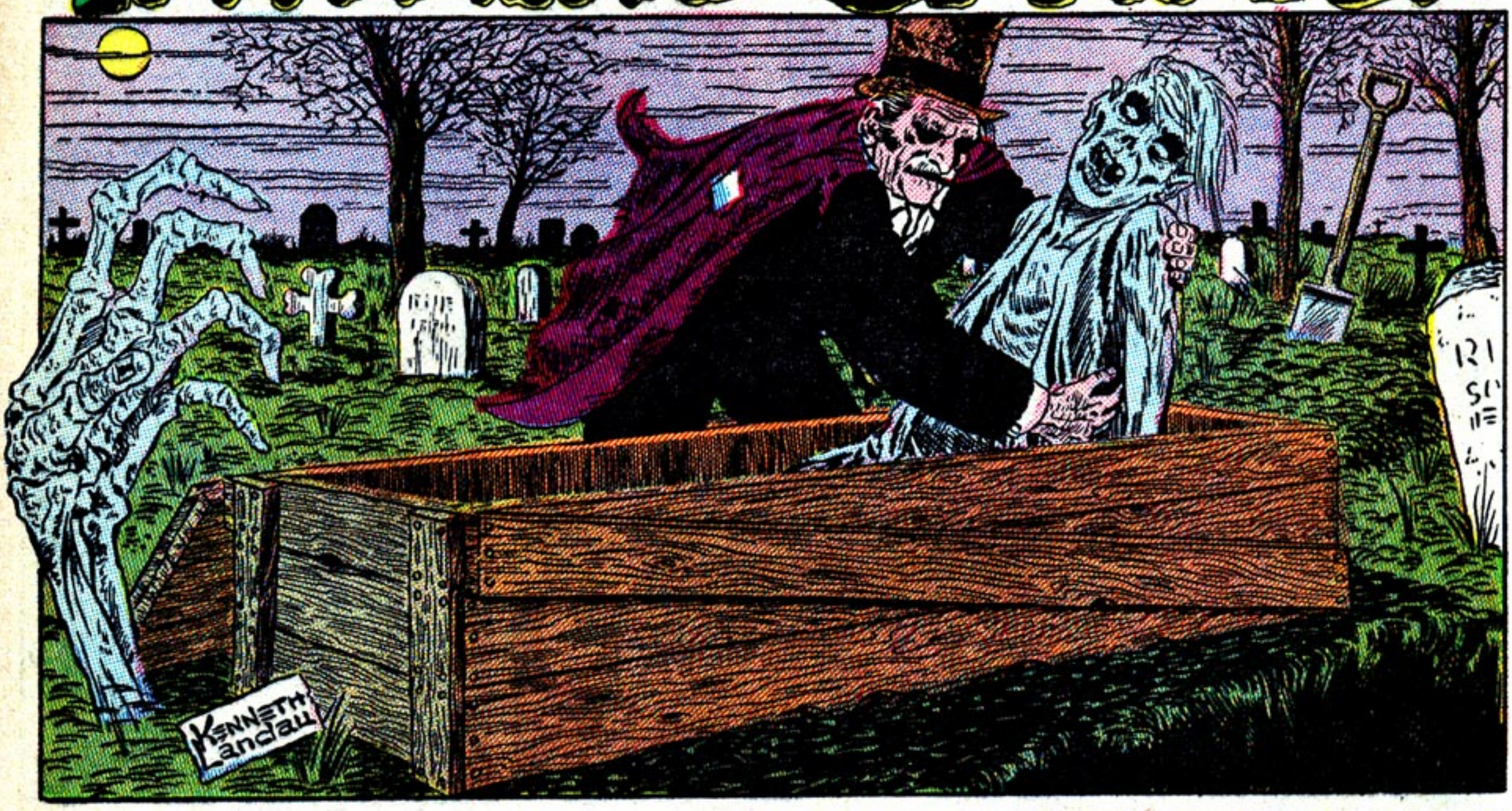
YOU'VE WAITED FOR IT, DEAR READER, AND HERE IT IS! ANOTHER *CLUTCHING HAND* STORY--A STORY OF DEATH AND DESOLATION IN WHICH DEAD MEN RISE AND STALK THE EARTH!--READY TO HEAR IT? ALL COMFY? THEN TAKE YOUR LAST LOOK AT THE BLUE SKY AND GOLDEN SUNSET--CHANGE THE CLEAR, COOL AIR FOR THE DANK ATMOSPHERE OF THE TOMB--AND SHUDDER TO THE CREEPY CHALLENGE OF--

YAWNING GRAVES!

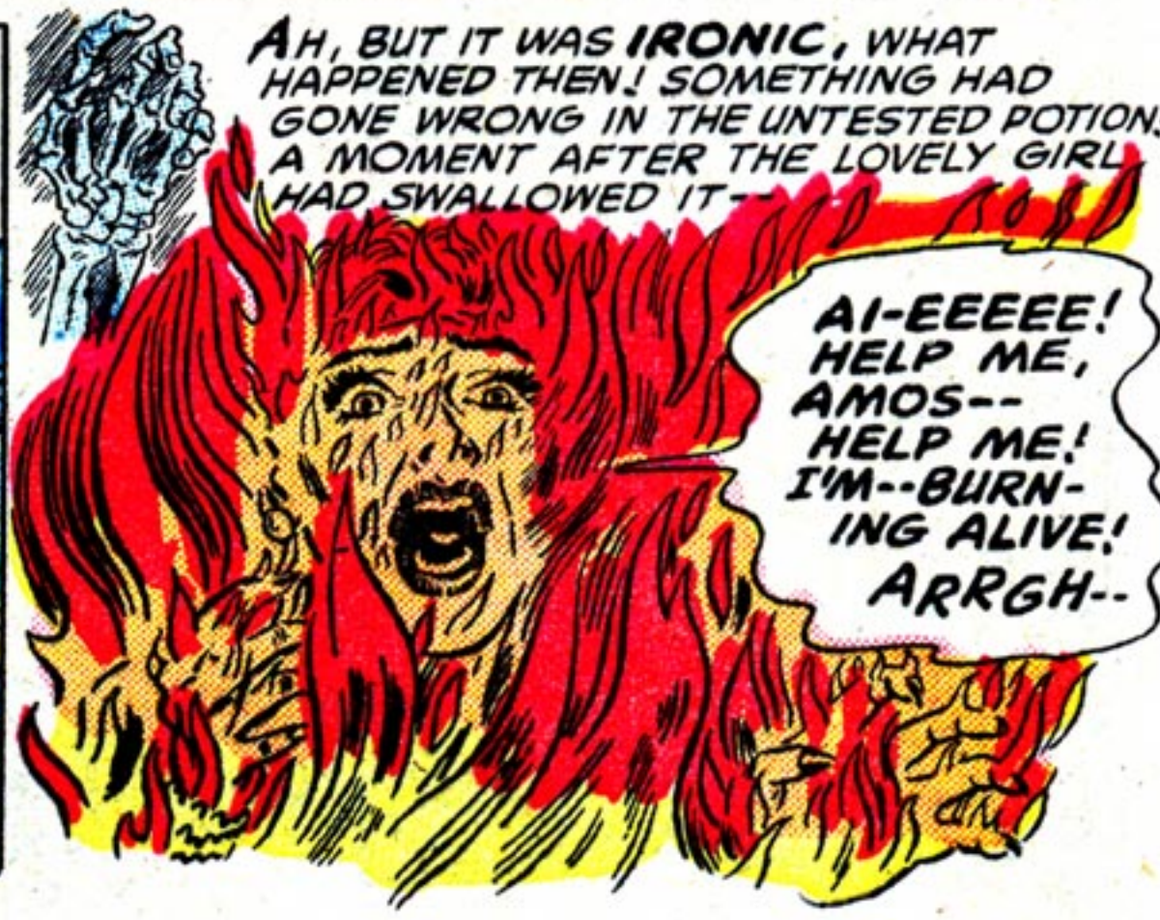


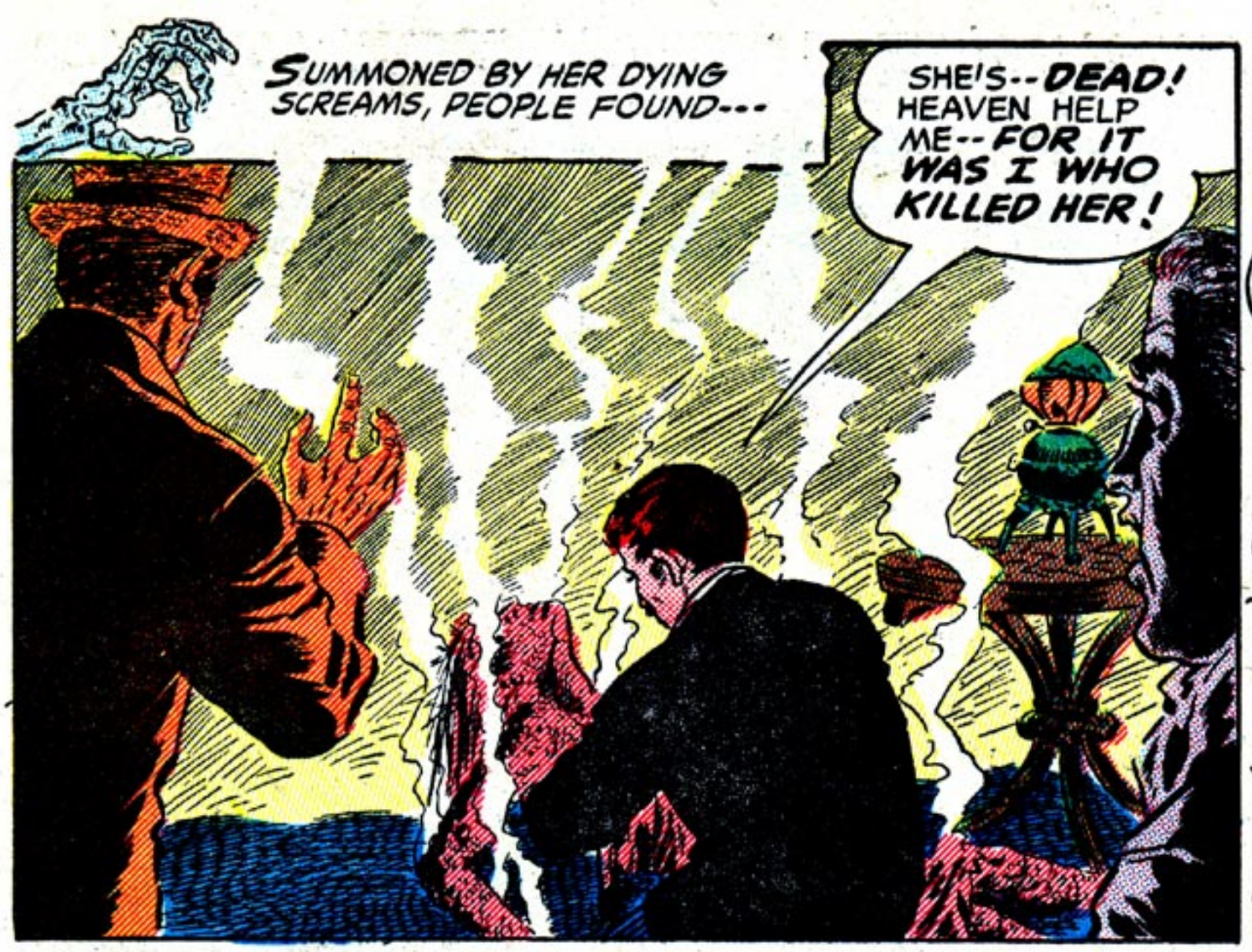
1800--NEW ENGLAND--AS YOUNG DR. AMOS FRISBY WORKED ON A CHERISHED EXPERIMENT--

HE COULDN'T WAIT TO BREAK THE GOOD NEWS TO PEGGY DALTON, HIS FIANCÉE--

AMOS KNEW THAT HE OUGHT TO REFUSE! BUT HE WAS FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM--AND SO SURE THAT THE NEW POTION WOULD WORK--

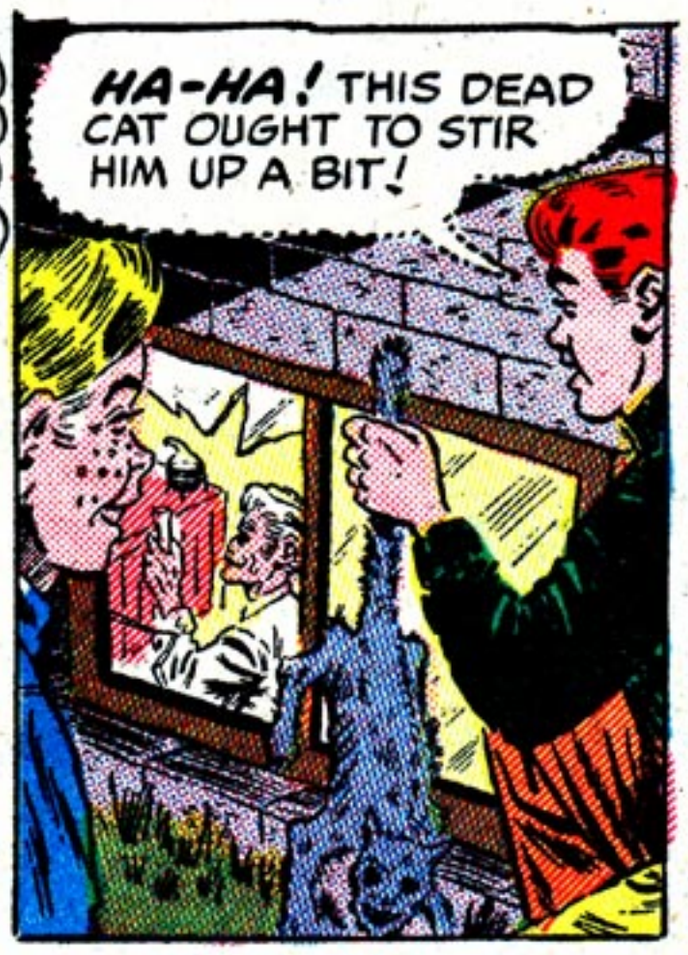
AH, BUT IT WAS IRONIC, WHAT HAPPENED THEN! SOMETHING HAD GONE WRONG IN THE UNTESTED POTION! A MOMENT AFTER THE LOVELY GIRL HAD SWALLOWED IT--




SUMMONED BY HER DYING SCREAMS, PEOPLE FOUND---
SHE'S--DEAD! HEAVEN HELP ME--FOR IT WAS I WHO KILLED HER!

JAIL--THE ROTTING TORTURE OF A 50-YEAR TERM! AND AS HIS YOUTH WASTED BEHIND BARS---
IF--IF ONLY I CAN KEEP MY SANITY UNTIL I'M FREE! I'LL PERFECT MY POTION THEN--IN PEGGY'S MEMORY!.AND I'LL SHOW THOSE DOGS WHO PUT ME HERE....

BUT IT WAS AN OLD AND DEMENTED MAN WHOM THEY FINALLY RELEASED--LAUGHED AT BY EVERYBODY--HATING EVERYBODY--
THERE'S CRAZY OLD FRISBY!
HELLO, GRANDPOP! STILL GOING TO MAKE EVERYBODY LIVE FOREVER?
I--I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON THEM ALL--I SWEAR IT!
TAILOR
SUITS


HE WOULD RETURN TO HIS CONTINUAL EXPERIMENTS THEN--AND FORGET EVERYTHING IN THE FEVER OF HIS ETERNAL QUEST--
HA-HA! THIS DEAD CAT OUGHT TO STIR HIM UP A BIT!

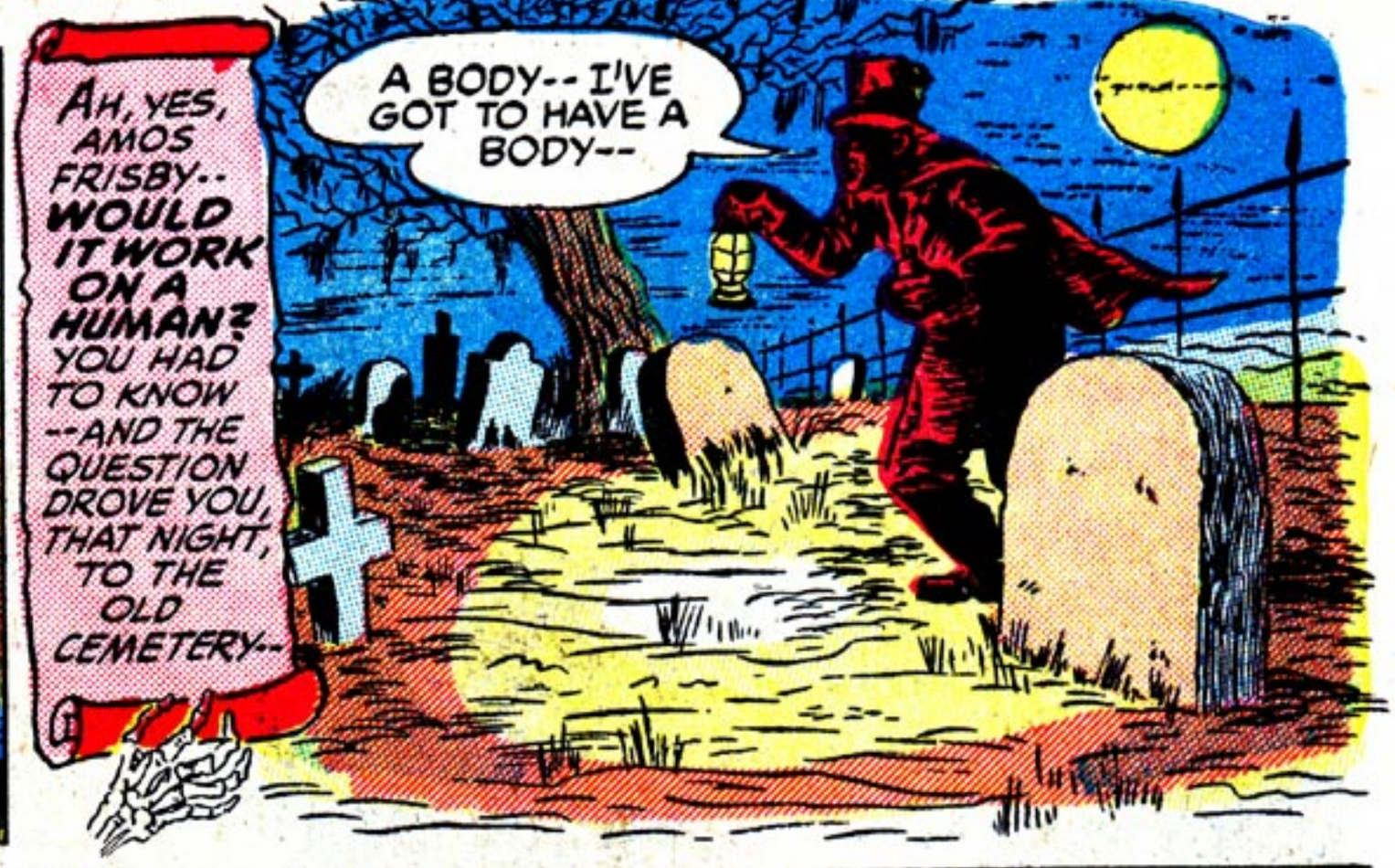
THUD!
WE HIT HIM! RUN!
OH!

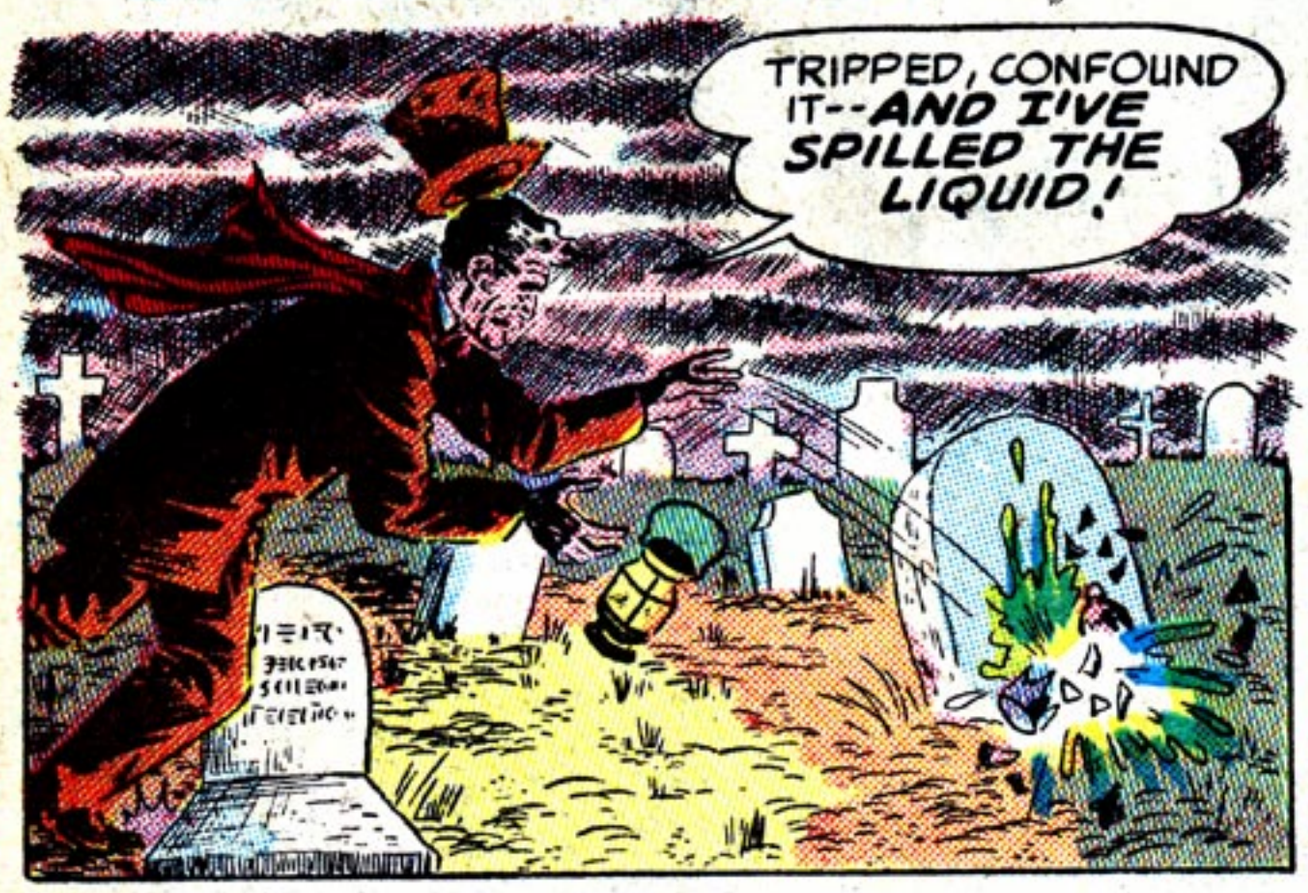
THOSE CRUEL LITTLE RASCALS -- I'LL HAVE TO MAKE MORE OF THE NEW FLUID NOW! I--WAIT! THE ANIMAL'S BODY--DIDN'T IT SEEM TO--STIR?

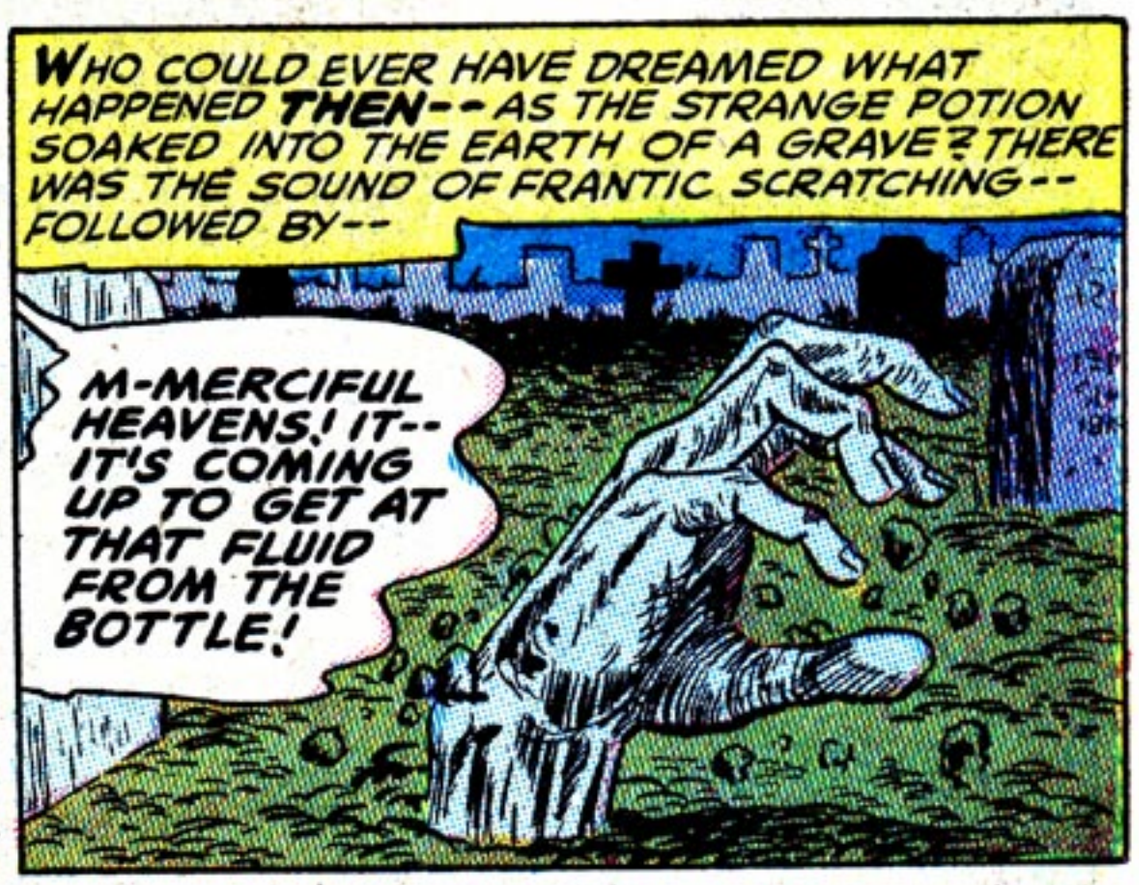
AH, YES, AMOS--IT DID SEEM TO MOVE A LITTLE, DIDN'T IT? AND THE NEXT MOMENT--IT DID MORE THAN THAT!
IT--IT'S GETTING UP! AN OLD ANIMAL CORPSE--ALIVE AGAIN!

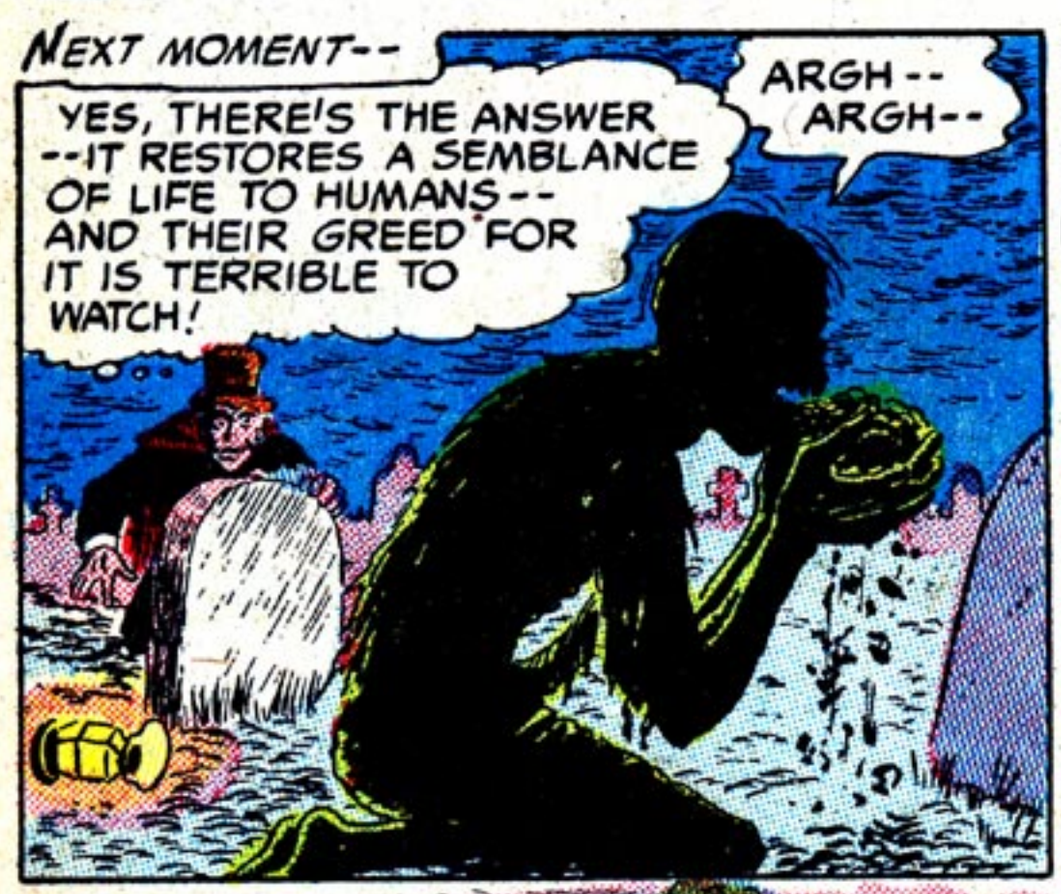
GET BACK, YOU--DEVIL!
SSSS!

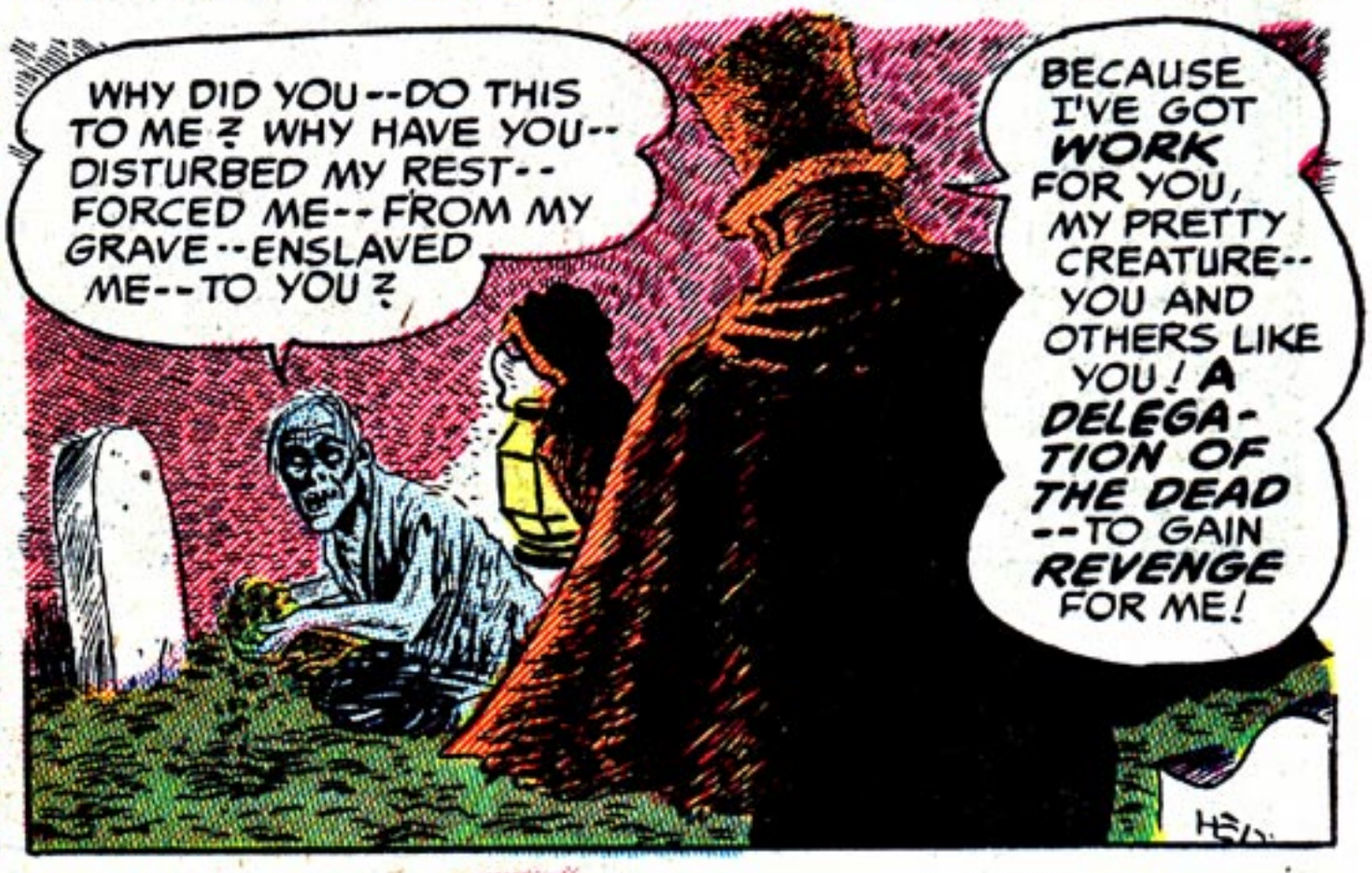
WHATEVER IT IS, THAT LATEST POTION OF MINE SOMEHOW HAS THE POWER TO RESTORE LIFE! BUT WOULD IT-- WORK ON A HUMAN?


AH, YES, AMOS FRISBY-- WOULD IT WORK ON A HUMAN? YOU HAD TO KNOW --AND THE QUESTION DROVE YOU, THAT NIGHT, TO THE OLD CEMETERY--
A BODY-- I'VE GOT TO HAVE A BODY--


TRIPPED, CONFOUND IT--AND I'VE SPILLED THE LIQUID!


WHO COULD EVER HAVE DREAMED WHAT HAPPENED THEN--AS THE STRANGE POTION SOAKED INTO THE EARTH OF A GRAVE? THERE WAS THE SOUND OF FRANTIC SCRATCHING-- FOLLOWED BY--
M-MERCIFUL HEAVENS! IT-- IT'S COMING UP TO GET AT THAT FLUID FROM THE BOTTLE!


NEXT MOMENT--
YES, THERE'S THE ANSWER --IT RESTORES A SEMBLANCE OF LIFE TO HUMANS-- AND THEIR GREED FOR IT IS TERRIBLE TO WATCH!
ARGH-- ARGH--


WHY DID YOU--DO THIS TO ME? WHY HAVE YOU-- DISTURBED MY REST-- FORCED ME--FROM MY GRAVE--ENSLAVED ME--TO YOU?
BECAUSE I'VE GOT WORK FOR YOU, MY PRETTY CREATURE-- YOU AND OTHERS LIKE YOU! A DELEGATION OF THE DEAD --TO GAIN REVENGE FOR ME!

YES, REVENGE --ON THE TOWNS-PEOPLE WHOM HE BLAMED FOR IMPRISONING HIM, RIDICULING HIM! IN THE WEEK THAT FOLLOWED, THE POTION FELL ON MANY GRAVES---

THE FIRST PART OF OLD AMOS'S FIENDISH PLAN WAS COMPLETE NOW! A COMPANY OF CORPSES HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED TO DO HIS BIDDING--

WE--BEG YOU--LET US--RETURN--TO THE EARTH!

WE ARE WEARY--FOR THE PEACE--DEATH GAVE US!

NO--THERE IS **WORK** FOR YOU! REMEMBER THAT I AM YOUR **MASTER**, AND YOU MUST DO MY BIDDING! HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO---

AND SO--

RAP! RAP!

BETTER SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR, EPHRAIM!

OH, GOOD LORD --**N-NO!**

AARRGH!

GR-RRR....

IT WAS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE TOWN--IN SCENES OF AWFUL HORROR--

NO, NO--PLEASE---**AI-EEEE!**

THE MURDEROUS RAIDS CONTINUED! OBJECTS: **REVENGE --AND GAIN!**

AH, YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOBS WELL! YOU'VE BROUGHT ME THE TOWN'S WEALTH---

AND YOU'VE HAD--YOUR REVENGE! CAN WE NOT --RETURN TO OUR REST-- **NOW?**

NO--NOT YET--NOT UNTIL I HAVE THE WEALTH OF A **KING!** TONIGHT I MYSELF SHALL LEAD YOU, MY PRETTY ONES--TO A PLACE WHERE THERE'S MUCH GOLD---

THERE IT IS! THERE'S MONEY AND JEWELS APLENTY HIDDEN IN **THERE**, I'LL WARRANT!

YOU WANT US--TO BREAK INTO A **CHURCH?**

DESPOIL A SACRED PLACE? COMMIT **SACRILEGE?**

YOU'LL DO AS I SAY! AM I NOT YOUR MASTER, YOU WALKING CLODS?
YOU-- WERE-- UNTIL YOU MADE --THE MISTAKE-- OF LEADING US-- ONTO HALLOWED GROUND!
YOUR POWER OVER US--IS GONE --HERE!

THIS WAS REVOLT--REBELLION FROM BEYOND DEATH ITSELF!
KEEP-- BACK! WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
YOU MADE US-- LEAVE OUR GRAVES!
YOU MADE US-ROB!
YOU MADE US-- KILL!

IT WAS THEN THAT OLD AMOS FELT THE CLUTCHING HAND OF THE TOMB--
NO! NO! LET ME G-GO!

THEY BORE HIM, STRUGGLING, TO AN OPEN GRAVE THE GRAVE-DIGGERS HAD LEFT! IT HAD BEEN INTENDED FOR A DIFFERENT CORPSE--BUT NOW--
DON'T! I--I'LL FREE YOU--GIVE YOU ALL MY TREASURE--

NO! NO!
THUD!

THEY--THEY'RE FILLING THE GRAVE --BURYING ME ALIVE! A!-EEEE!

HE'S STOPPED--STRUGGLING NOW! HIS LIFE--IS DONE!
AND NOW--WE CAN REST!

YES--THEY COULD REST NOW! THE TORTURED SLAVERY WAS DONE WITH! ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS A PILE OF ANCIENT BONES--OVER THE GRAVE WHICH HAD CHOKED OUT THE LIFE OF OLD AMOS FRISBY!
THE END

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MONEY BACK IF NOT DELIGHTED

DEATH of a DOLL!

GREETINGS, ALL YOU DEAR, DELIGHTFUL READERS! SO NICE KNOWING YOU -- BECAUSE SOME DAY I'M GOING TO KNOW YOU BETTER! YOU SEE, I'M DEATH'S ASSISTANT -- BUT FRIENDS LIKE YOU CAN JUST CALL ME THE CORPSE-MAKER! IT'S A BUSY LIFE, GOING HITHER AND YON, AND WHISPERING INTO HUMAN EARS THE SUGGESTIONS THAT LEAD TO MURDER! AND AS YOU MAY GUESS, I'VE MANY A BLOODY TALE TO TELL! SO IF YOUR SPINE TINGLES DELICIOUSLY TO HORROR -- TO SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT AND STORIES OF STRANGE SLAUGHTER -- THEN JOIN YOUR OLD CORPSE-MAKER IN THE BLOOD-BATH WE'LL CALL -- "DEATH OF A DOLL!"

"POOR HAROLD HONEYWELL -- IT WAS REALLY A SHAME, THE WAY HIS RELATIVES REACTED TO THEIR FIRST SIGHT OF HIM --"

THERE -- THERE COULDN'T BE ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THE HONEYWELL FAMILY! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!

OH, NO -- NO!

"HAROLD WAS A MISTAKE, ALL RIGHT -- BUT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THEY COULD DO ABOUT IT! LEARNED SPECIALISTS EVERYWHERE GAVE THEM THE SAME ANSWER --"

I'M SORRY! OUTSIDE OF THE -- ER -- OBVIOUS IMPAIRMENTS, IT -- THE CHILD, THAT IS -- SEEMS HEALTHY ENOUGH! THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK IT WON'T LIVE!

THAT'S -- WHAT WE WERE AFRAID OF, DOCTOR!

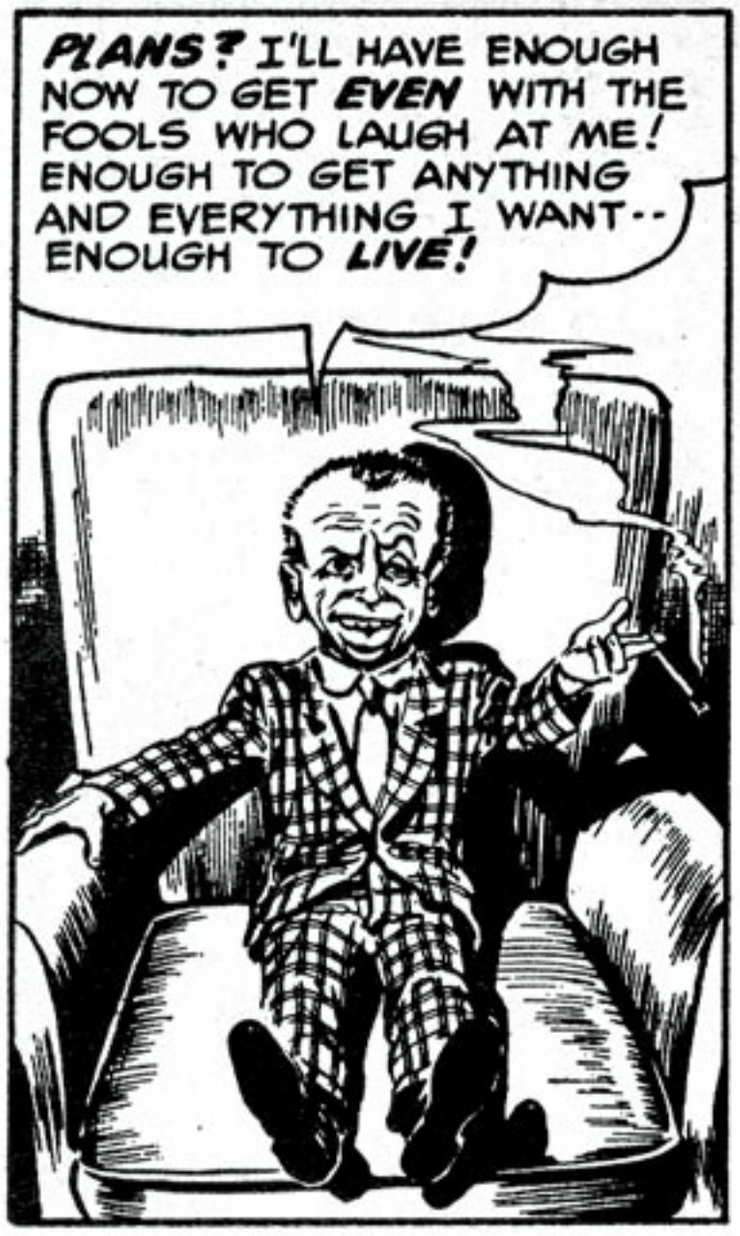
"AND SO THE BABY GREW OLDER! HE WAS NEVER REALLY HAPPY! THE TROUBLE WAS THAT PEOPLE WERE SQUEAMISH --"

I -- I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF THIS! HE MAKES ME WISH I COULD MIX POISON WITH HIS PABLUM!

"THERE WERE LUXURIES APLENTY AS HIS UPBRINGING CONTINUED, BUT THAT DIDN'T DO MUCH GOOD! IT WOULDN'T -- FOR ANYONE LIKE HAROLD!"

I -- I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO REMOVE HIM FROM THIS SCHOOL, MR. HONEYWELL! IT ISN'T ONLY PHYSICALLY THAT HE'S WARPED, BUT -- WELL, GET HIM OUT -- THAT'S ALL I ASK!

"THE LONG YEARS PASSED, THE PARENTS DIED, AND HAROLD HONEYWELL CAME INTO HIS INHERITANCE--"
--ALL IN ALL, YOU GET ABOUT 6 MILLION DOLLARS! THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY, FOR SOMEONE LIKE--I MEAN--WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?


PLANS? I'LL HAVE ENOUGH NOW TO GET EVEN WITH THE FOOLS WHO LAUGH AT ME! ENOUGH TO GET ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING I WANT--ENOUGH TO LIVE!

"FUNNY, WASN'T IT? YOU AND I WOULD WANT MANSIONS, YACHTS, JEWELRY! BUT NOT HAROLD! HE HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND!"
NO NEED FOR PICTURES NOW! ALWAYS, WOMEN HAVE LAUGHED AT ME, SCORNED ME FOR A FREAK--BUT NO LONGER! THEY'LL WORSHIP ME, NOW THAT I'M RICH!

"BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT EXACTLY AS HE HAD PLANNED! POOR, POOR HAROLD HADN'T ENTIRELY REALIZED JUST HOW REVOLTING HE WAS!"
GO OUT WITH YOU? HA-HA!
YOU LITTLE MONSTER!
REPULSIVE DWARF!
GET OUT!

"THERE WAS YET ANOTHER WAY TO ACHIEVE BEAUTY, AND DESPERATELY, HE TRIED IT! HE BACKED A SHOW--AND FOR A WHILE, IT LOOKED AS IF IT WERE WORKING--"
WHY, MR. HONEYWELL, AH'D CONSIDER IT AN HONOR TO GO OUT WITH YOU!
YOU--WOULD? THANK YOU--THAT'S--WONDERFUL!

"AH, WHAT A COUPLE THEY MADE! BUT SOON HAROLD WAS SO HEAD-OVER-HEELS THAT HE COULDN'T HEAR THE LAUGHS--"
HAROLD--DAHLIN'! IT'S SO SWEET OF YO'-ALL TO DO THIS FOR PO' LITTLE ME--
THERE'S--NOTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR YOU! YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL--
HA-HA! DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING SO RIDICULOUS IN YOUR LIFE?

"HE DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT IT WAS I, THE CORPSE-MAKER, WHO STEERED HIM TO HER DRESSING ROOM THAT FATAL NIGHT--"
WHAT IF HE IS JUST AN UGLY, REPULSIVE LITTLE DOLL--HE'S GOT THE DOUGH, HASN'T HE?
I MIGHT HAVE--KNOWN! AN UGLY, REPULSIVE LITTLE DOLL--BUT SHE'LL SOON FIND OUT I'M A DANGEROUS DOLL!

GET MY TECHNIQUE? BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CALL ME THE CORPSE-MAKER? AH, I HAD LITTLE HAROLD SIMMERING WITH RAGE AND HATRED BY NOW! AND ALTHOUGH HE COULDN'T SEE ME, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT I WAS WHISPERING IN HIS EAR, WHISPERING OF REVENGE -- OF RED, RED BLOOD! SO HE WAITED UNTIL SHE WAS ALONE -- THEN FIXED HIS CRUEL LITTLE FEATURES INTO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A WINNING SMILE --

YOU KNOW, I FEEL LIKE A DOLL ALONGSIDE YOU, MARILYN! -- SAY, LET'S PLAY A GAME! LET'S PRETEND I AM A DOLL -- YOUR DOLL! TAKE ME ON YOUR KNEE LIKE YOU WOULD YOUR DOLL -- WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT THE DIAMOND NECKLACE I SAW TODAY!
WHY, AH DECLARE -- WHAT A CHARMIN' GAME! SUPPOSIN' YO'-ALL COME RIGHT TO YO' MOTHER, LI'L DOLL!

WHOSE LI'L DOLL IZZUM? MAMA'S AFWAID YOU'RE NAUGHTY!
MAMA DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY --

NO -- NO -- DON'T --
BECAUSE SHE'S GOING TO BE PUT AT REST --

-- FOREVER!
CRASH!

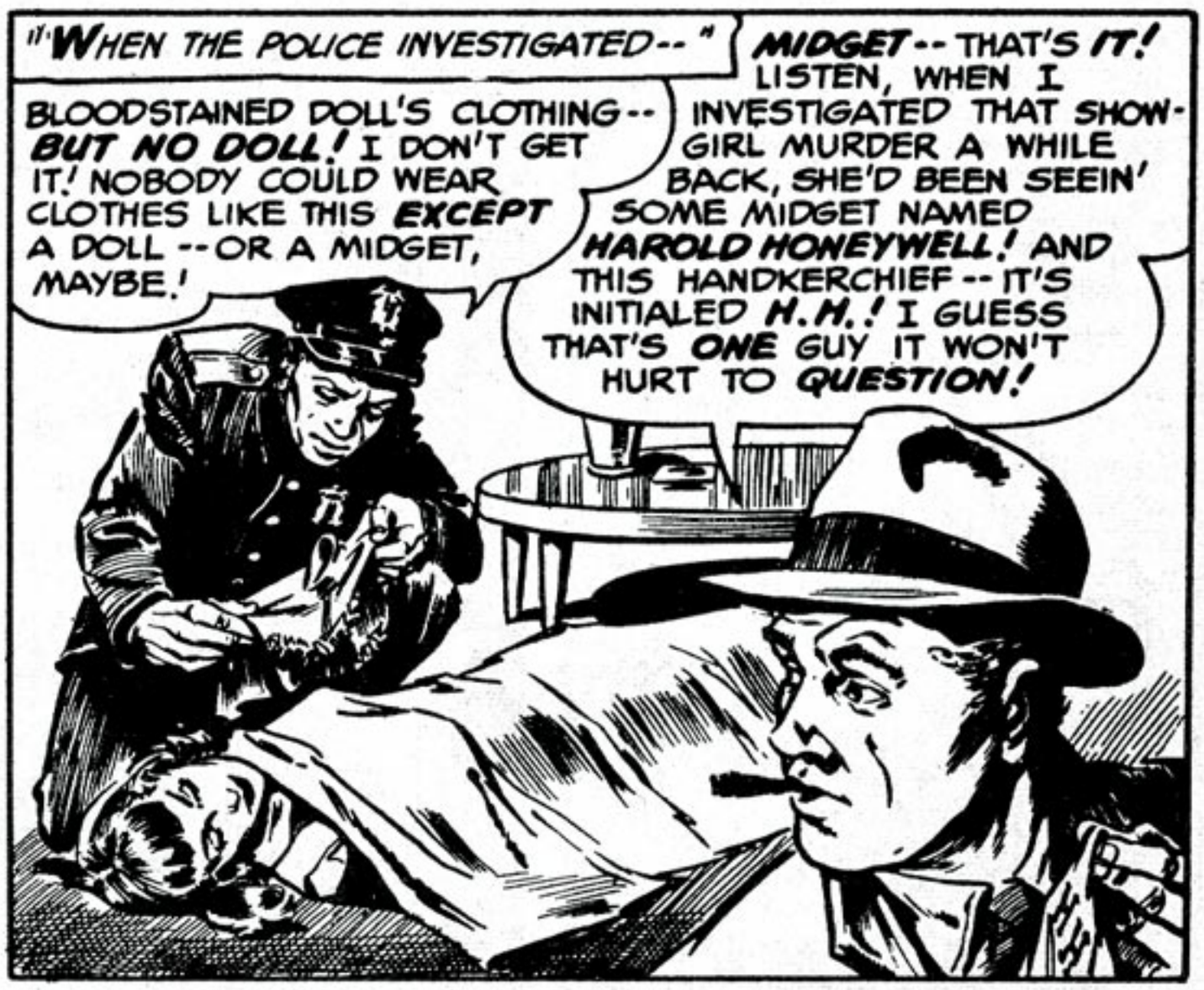
AH, YES -- IT WAS A LOVELY CORPSE I GAINED, READER -- AND I LOVE CORPSES! SO I KEPT ON WHISPERING TO LITTLE HAROLD, JUST AS I'M WHISPERING TO YOU! I MADE HIM SEARCH OUT ANOTHER VICTIM FOR HIS REVENGE CAMPAIGN! SHE WAS A GIRL WHO LACKED MONEY TO STUDY ART -- AND TINY MR. HONEYWELL WAS SO PHILANTHROPIC --

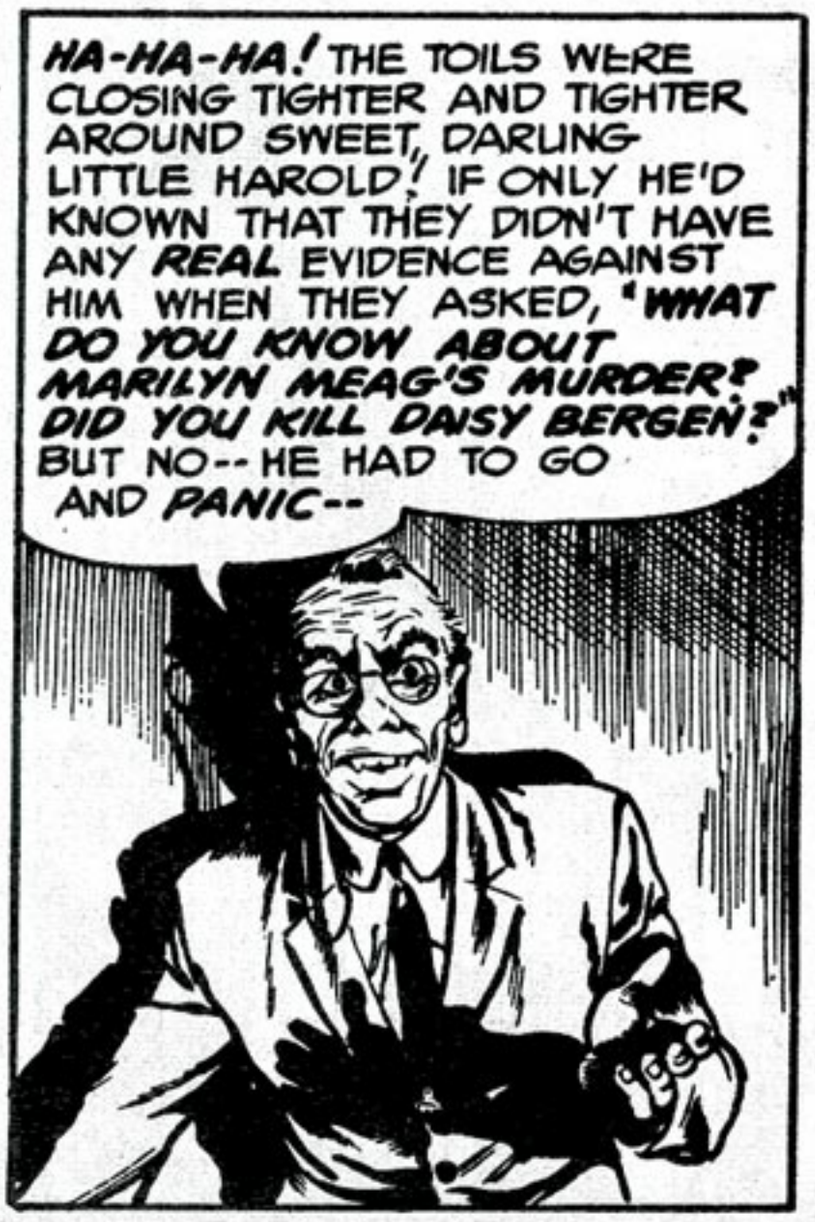
"-- THAT SHE WANTED TO REPAY HIM IN SOME FASHION! AND SO SHE FELL IN EAGERLY WITH ANOTHER OF HIS BLOODY LITTLE GAMES!"
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO THE ART STUDENTS' BALL, DAISY -- AND I'VE GOT A WONDERFUL IDEA FOR COSTUMES FOR BOTH OF US -- IF YOU'LL GO WITH ME, THAT IS!
I'D BE GLAD TO, MR. HONEYWELL! AFTER ALL, YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME!

FINE! NOW SUPPOSE YOU GO AS A CHILD-- YOUR INNOCENT BEAUTY WILL CARRY IT OFF SPLENDIDLY! AND TO CARRY ALONG THE ILLUSION--I'LL BE YOUR DOLL!
WHY, HOW ORIGINAL! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

"GET THE STRATEGY? THAT 'DOLL' SLUR STILL RANKLED WITHIN HIM--AND HIS TWISTED MIND MADE HIM SEEK REVENGE --AS A DOLL! AND SO--AT DAISY'S APARTMENT, JUST BEFORE THE BALL--"
OH, YOU'RE JUST WONDERFUL, MR. HONEYWELL! WE'RE BOUND TO GET THE FIRST PRIZE-- EVERYBODY'LL THINK YOU'RE REALLY A DOLL!

NO--NO! HELP!

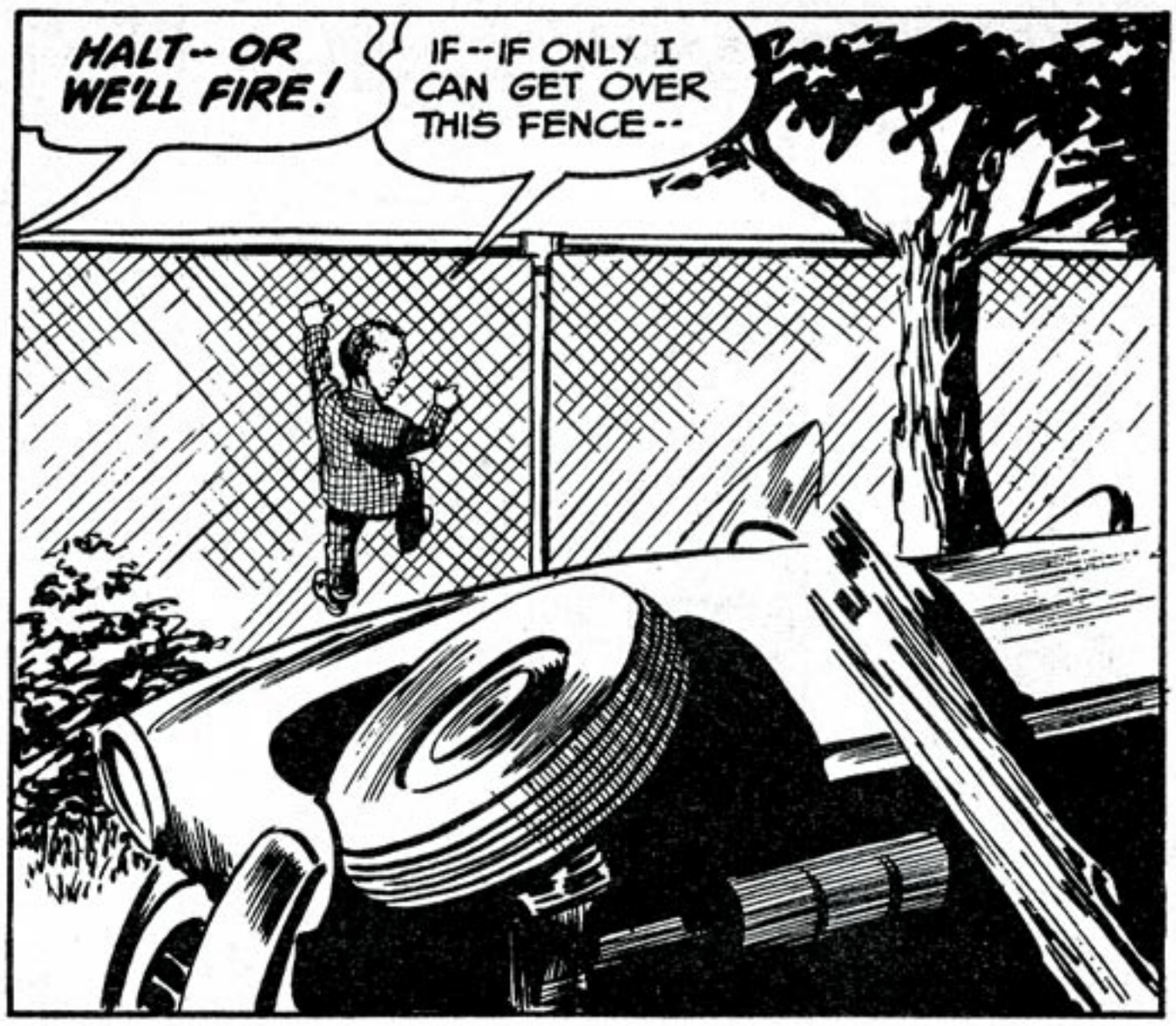

"WHEN THE POLICE INVESTIGATED--"
BLOODSTAINED DOLL'S CLOTHING-- BUT NO DOLL! I DON'T GET IT! NOBODY COULD WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THIS EXCEPT A DOLL--OR A MIDGET, MAYBE!
MIDGET--THAT'S IT! LISTEN, WHEN I INVESTIGATED THAT SHOW-GIRL MURDER A WHILE BACK, SHE'D BEEN SEEIN' SOME MIDGET NAMED HAROLD HONEYWELL! AND THIS HANDKERCHIEF--IT'S INITIALED H.H.! I GUESS THAT'S ONE GUY IT WON'T HURT TO QUESTION!


HA-HA-HA! THE TOILS WERE CLOSING TIGHTER AND TIGHTER AROUND SWEET, DARLING LITTLE HAROLD! IF ONLY HE'D KNOWN THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY REAL EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM WHEN THEY ASKED, "WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MARILYN MEAG'S MURDER? DID YOU KILL DAISY BERGEN?" BUT NO--HE HAD TO GO AND PANIC--

YOU--YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!
QUICK-- AFTER HIM!
CRASH!

JUST LET ME HIT THE OPEN ROADS OUT OF TOWN, AND I'LL LOSE THEM--
WE'LL STOP HIM! AIM FOR HIS TIRES!
WOOO

BAM! BAM!
WHAM!


HALT-- OR WE'LL FIRE!
IF--IF ONLY I CAN GET OVER THIS FENCE--

"HE GOT OVER! ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE TREES, PATHS--AND A TARPAULIN-COVERED OBJECT THAT SEEMED TO OFFER A HIDING-PLACE--"
MAYBE--THEY WON'T FIND ME--IN HERE--

LISTEN TO THAT ROW--SOUNDS ALMOST HUMAN, DOESN'T IT?
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HE LOST HIS FAVORITE TOY! BUT I GUESS IT'LL BE OKAY TO SHOW HIM AGAIN TOMORROW!
AI-EEEEE!

WONDERING ABOUT HAROLD, DEAR READER--AND THE HIDING PLACE HE CHOSE? OH, THAT'S THE LOVELIEST JOKE OF ALL--YOU'LL JUST DIE LAUGHING! REMEMBER THE TARPAULIN HE DISAPPEARED UNDER? LET'S TAKE A LOOK BEHIND IT--TOGETHER WITH THE CROWD THAT GATHERED NEXT MORNING TO GET A LOOK OF THEIR OWN!

"AS THE TARPAULIN DROPPED--"
OH, NO--NO!
GREAT HEAVENS!
EEEEEE!

IT'S--HORRIBLE! M'GAMBO LOST HIS DOLL--AND NOW--HE'S FOUND ANOTHER!
The End

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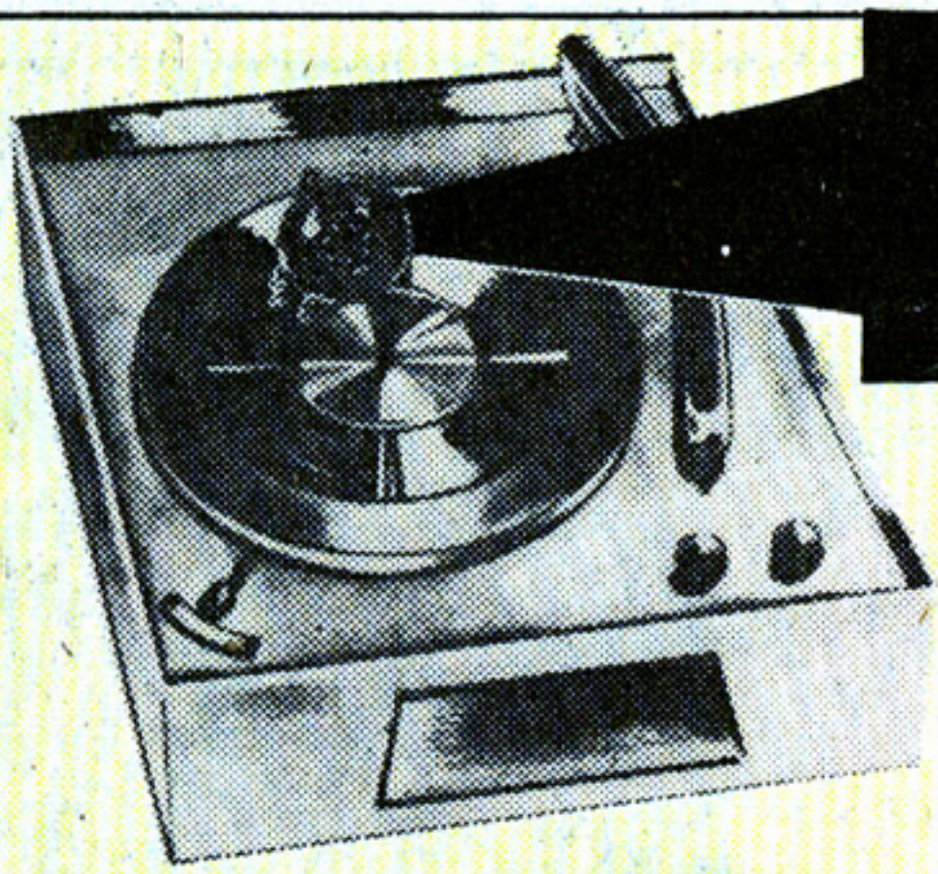

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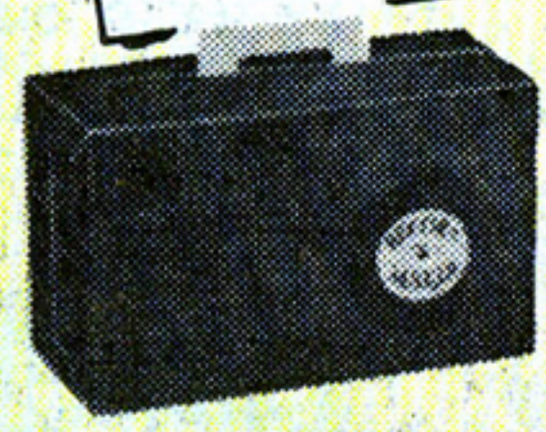

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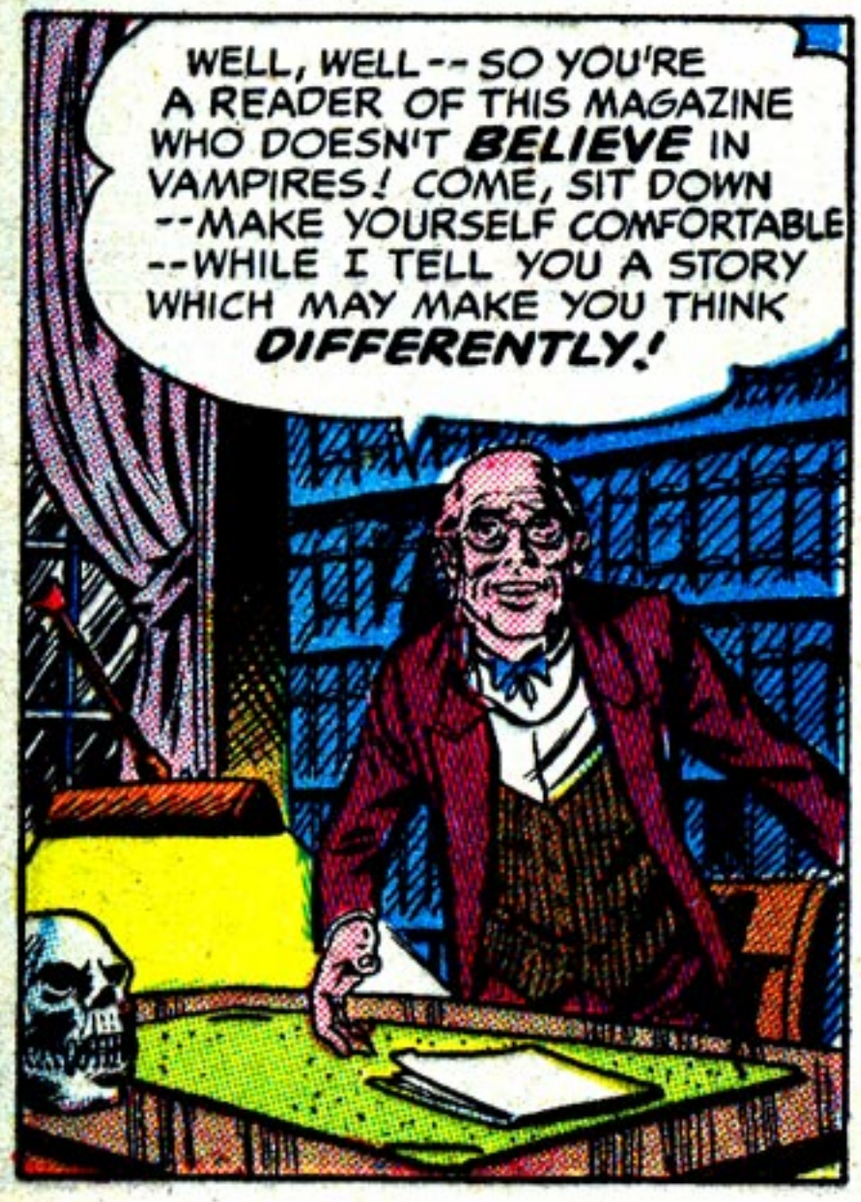
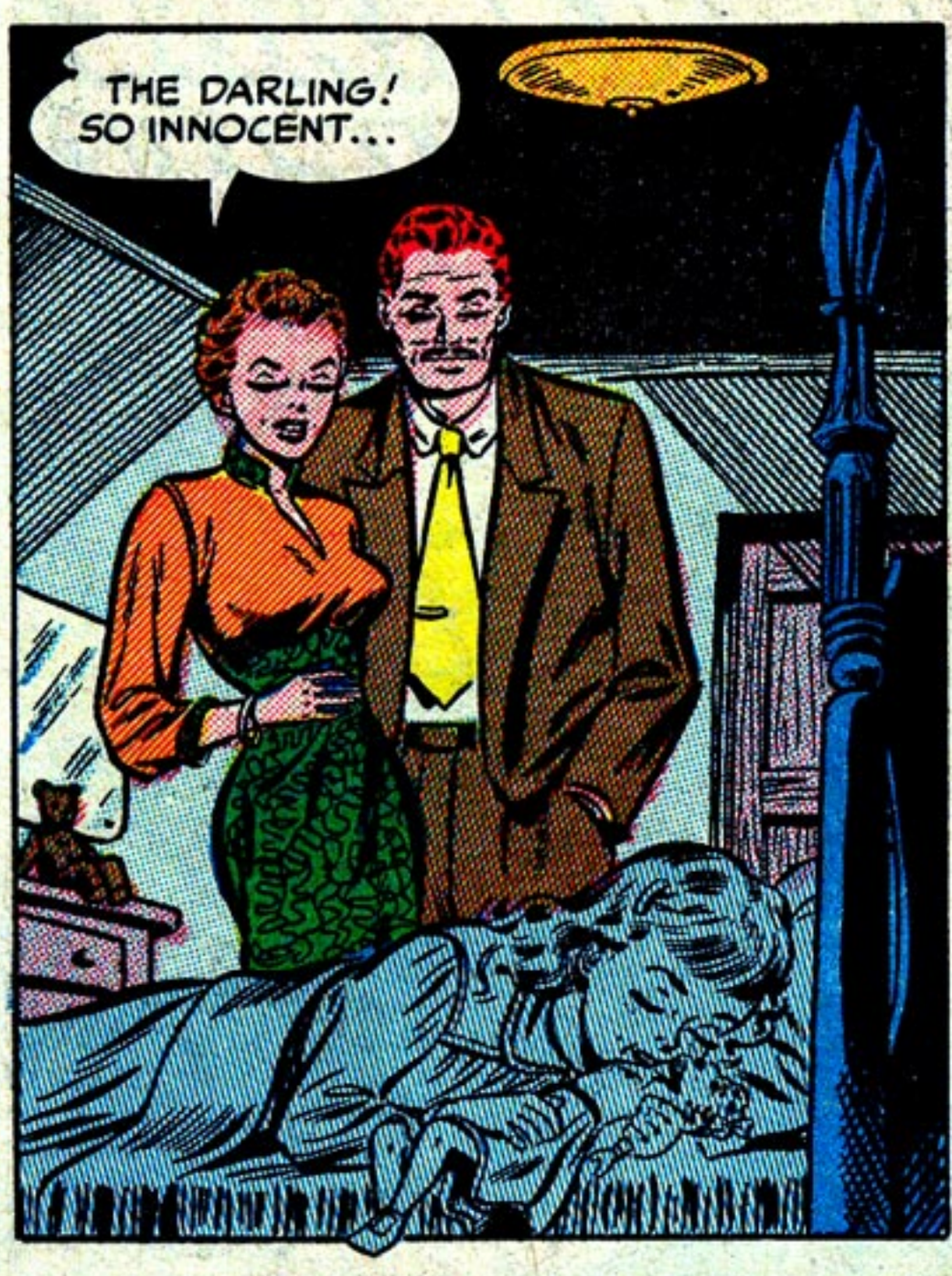
SO YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* IN THE SUPERNATURAL! YOU THINK THAT GRAVEYARD GHOSTS AND ROTTING ZOMBIES DON'T EXIST -- BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU DERIDE THE STORIES OF THE ANCIENT BLOOD LUST THAT TURNS A HUMAN INTO A THING THAT FLAPS BY NIGHT! OLD WIVES' TALES, YOU SAY -- AND YOU'VE COME TO VISIT THE *INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH INTO VAMPIRISM* JUST TO SNEER! BUT THE CURATOR HAS A WAY OF *DEALING* WITH DOUBTERS! LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO REVEAL -- HANG BREATHLESS ON EVERY WORD -- BEFORE YOU SAY --

VAMPIRES? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

HARRY LAZARUS



"AMERICA--FOSTER-PARENTS WHO IDOLIZED THE TOT! THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT WITHIN HER, THE OLD VAMPIRE TAINT STIRRED! THEY THOUGHT IT CUTE WHEN SHE SLEPT WITH HER DOLL--**NOT REALIZING THAT HER TEETH WERE CLOSED ON ITS THROAT!**"



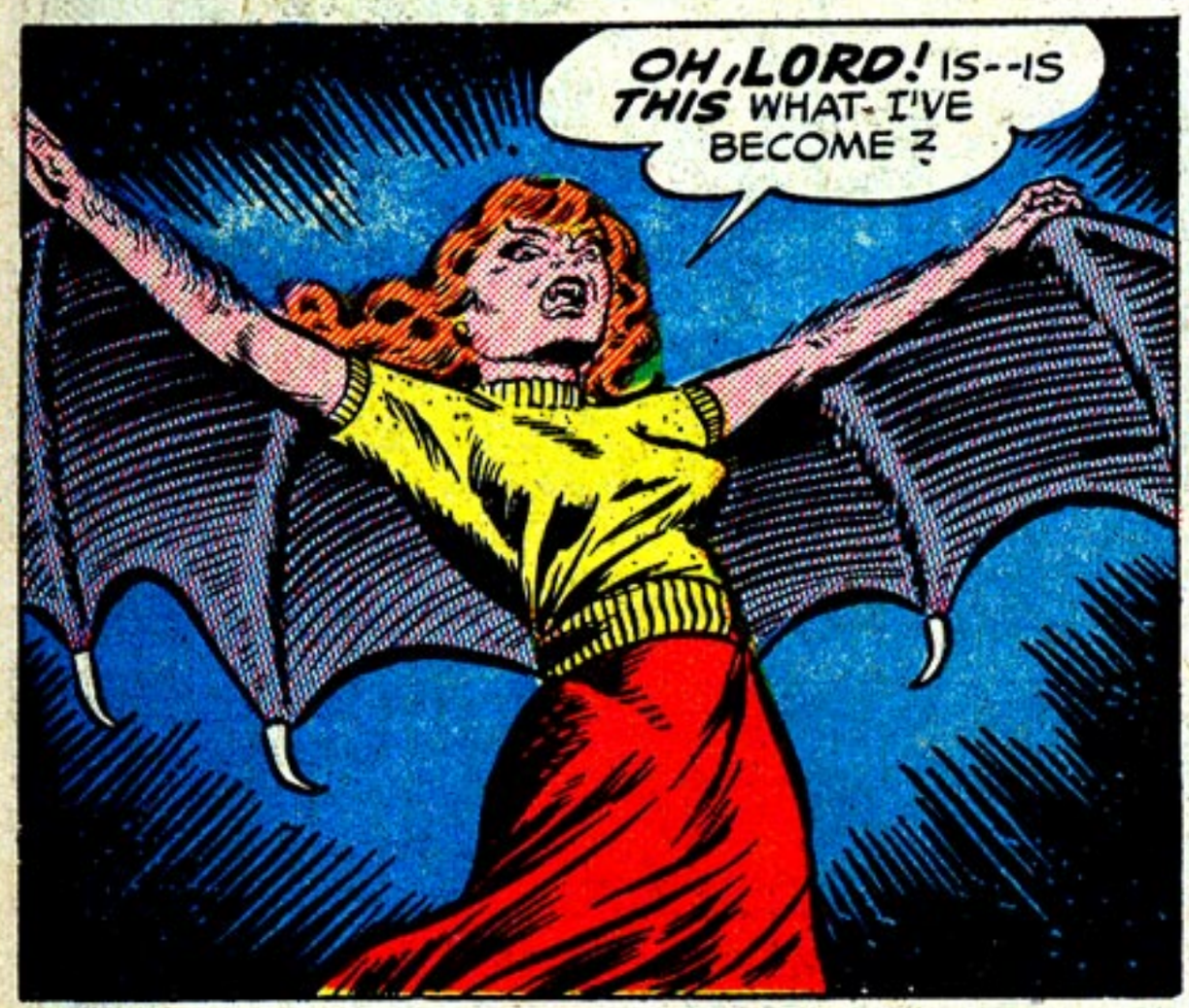
"NO, LISA DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG! SHE GREW OLDER--HARDLY COMPREHENDING THE STRANGE DREAMS--THE WEIRD, DIM DREAMS---"

"SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY--NOT **THEN!** THAT HAD TO WAIT FOR MATURITY! IT HAPPENED ON A DATE NIGHT... UP ABOVE, A FULL MOON SHONE! IT WAS THE ANCIENT SIGNAL OF THE VAMPIRE CLAN--AND WITHIN HER, FOR THE FIRST TIME--**THE HUNGER GREW!**"

"OH, YES, HE STRUGGLED--**HOW** HE STRUGGLED! BUT THIS WASN'T A WOMAN ANY LONGER! IT WAS A BEAST THAT SENSED ITS PREY--**AND MADE ITS KILL!**"

"NATURALLY, SHE WAS BESIDE HERSELF AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED! BUT AS SHE KNELT OVER HIS BODY HYSTERICALLY---"

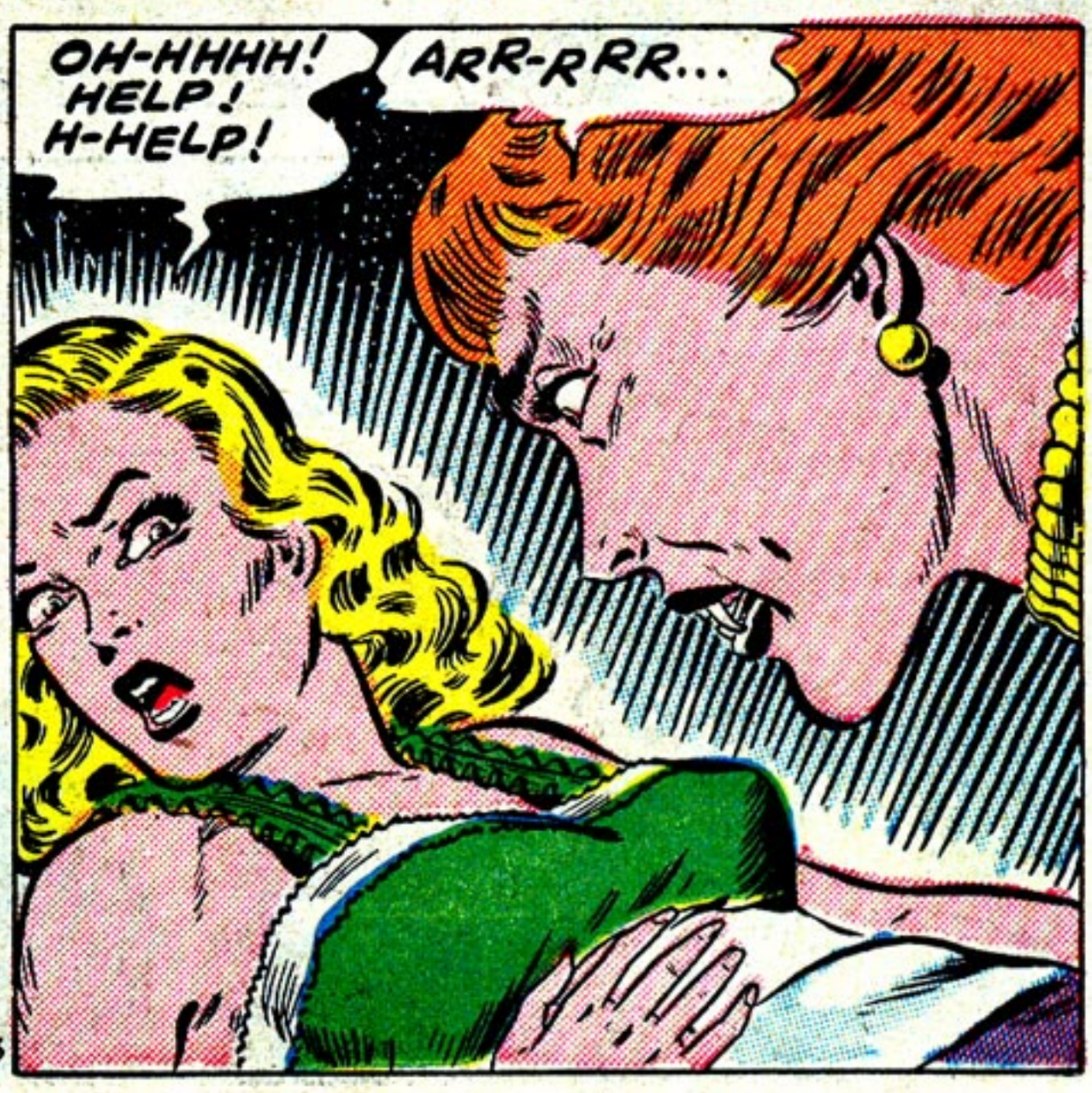
"WHO CAN BELIEVE THE AWFUL HORROR OF WHAT HAPPENED **THEN**? HANDS INTO **CLAWS**--TEETH INTO **FANGS**--THE BLACK WINGS OF THE **ACCURSED!**"



"BY NOW THE POLICE HAD ARRIVED, IN RESPONSE TO HER VICTIM'S DYING CRIES! IT WAS TIME FOR THE VAMPIRE TO TEST HER WINGS!"

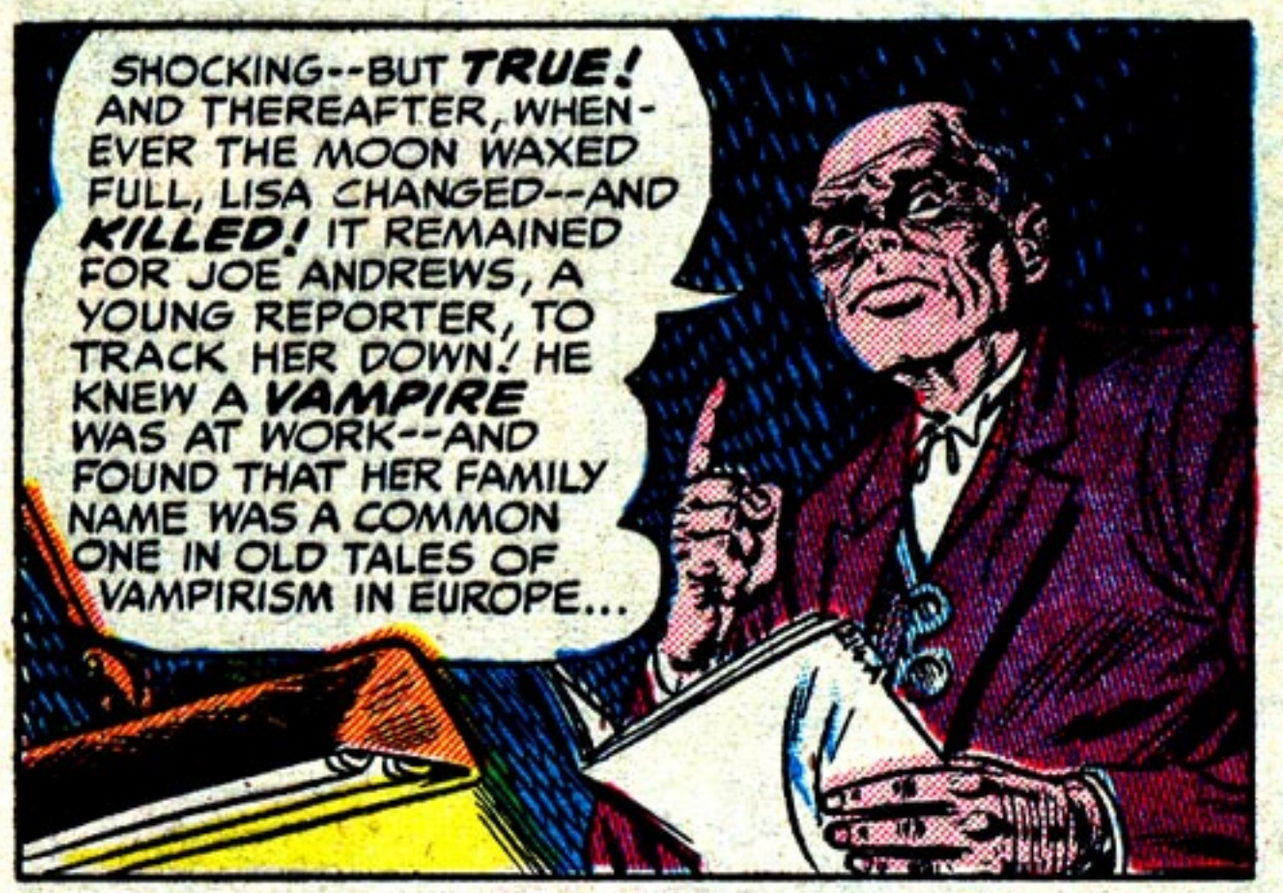
"HIGH OVER THE ROOFS OF THE CITY SPED THE AWFUL CREATURE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN A WOMAN! AND FINALLY--"

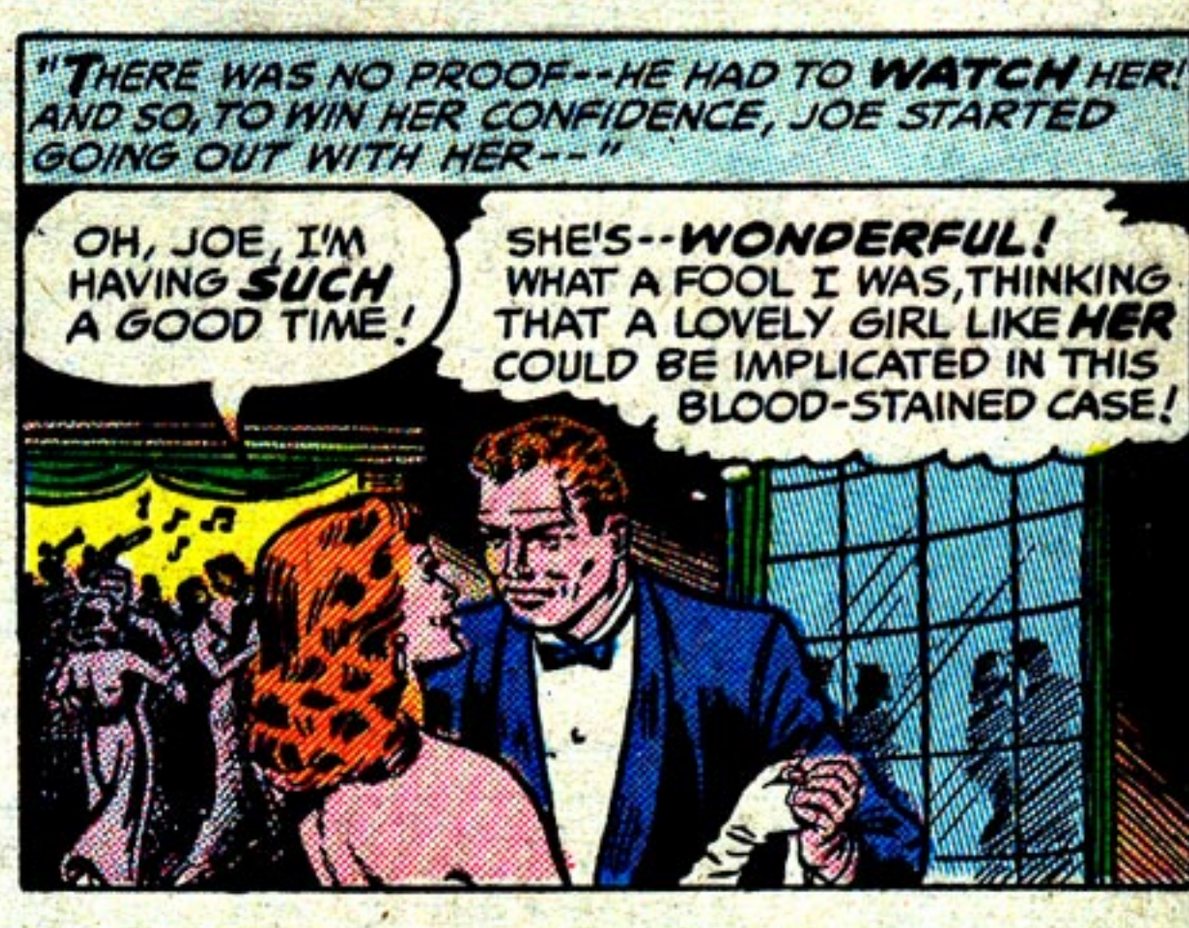
"YES, THERE WAS SOMEONE THERE--SOMEONE WHO KINDLED HER NEWFOUND BLOOD LUST TO A BLAZING HEIGHT!"

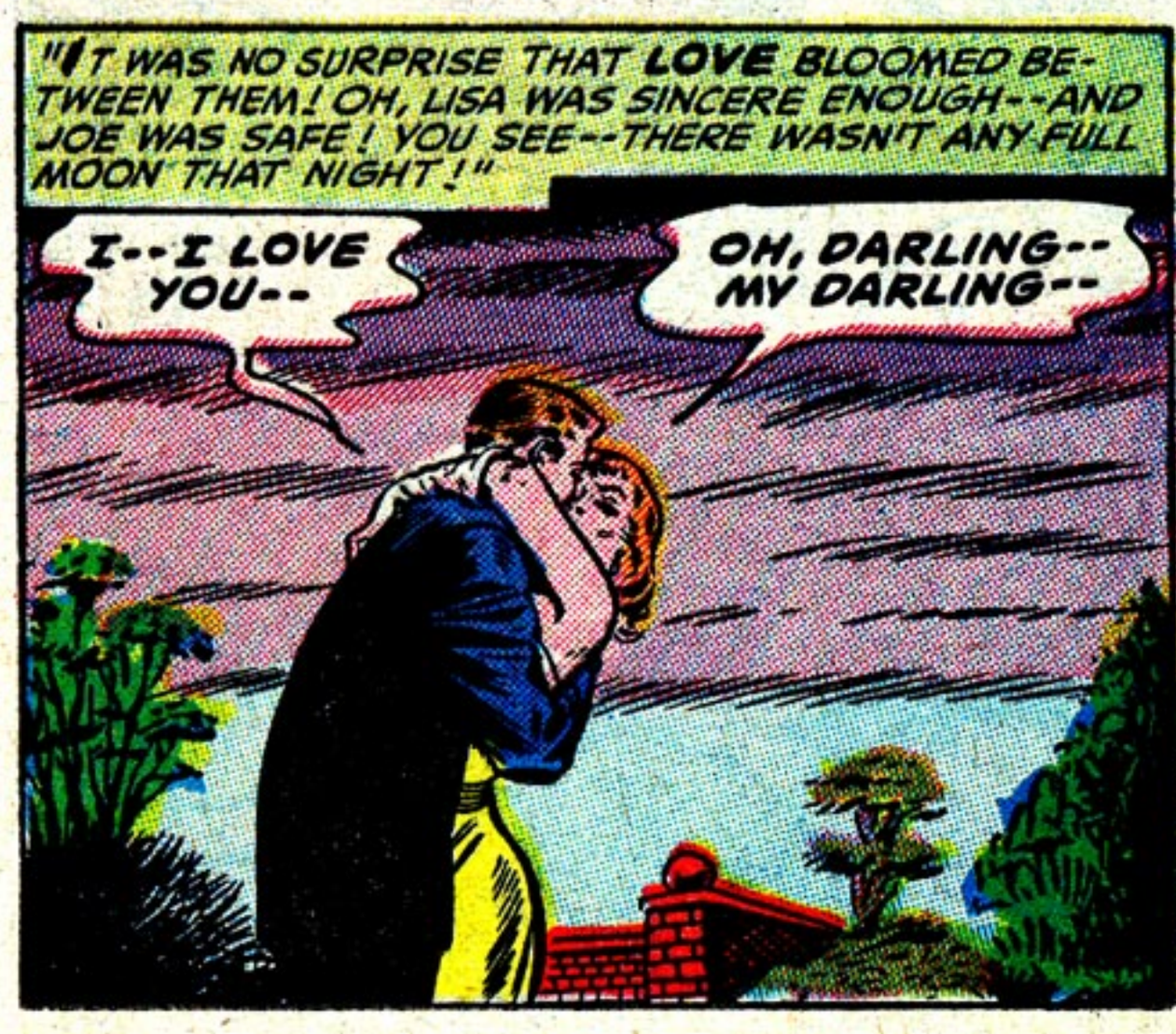


DON'T-- MMMFFF...
THEY'LL BE COMING TO INVESTIGATE THOSE SCREAMS! I'VE-- GOT TO GET HER AWAY FROM HERE!

"GONE WAS PITY...GONE WAS REMORSE...AS A KILLER BORE ITS PREY ACROSS THE SKIES!"
"AND IN A SECLUDED SPOT--THE FOUL DEED WAS DONE!"
HELP-- OH-HHHHH!
GR-RRRR...

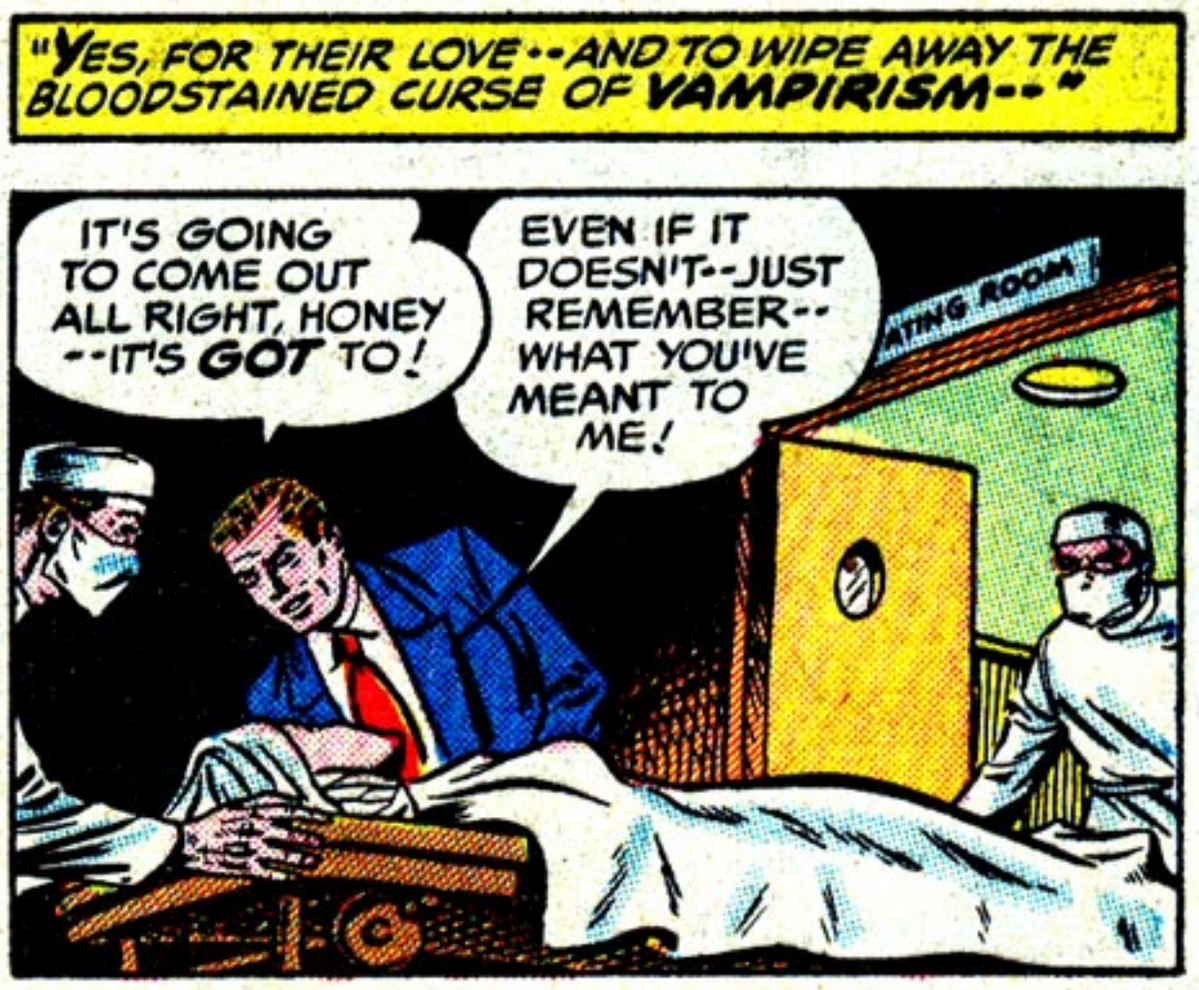

SHOCKING--BUT TRUE! AND THEREAFTER, WHENEVER THE MOON WAXED FULL, LISA CHANGED--AND KILLED! IT REMAINED FOR JOE ANDREWS, A YOUNG REPORTER, TO TRACK HER DOWN! HE KNEW A VAMPIRE WAS AT WORK--AND FOUND THAT HER FAMILY NAME WAS A COMMON ONE IN OLD TALES OF VAMPIRISM IN EUROPE...

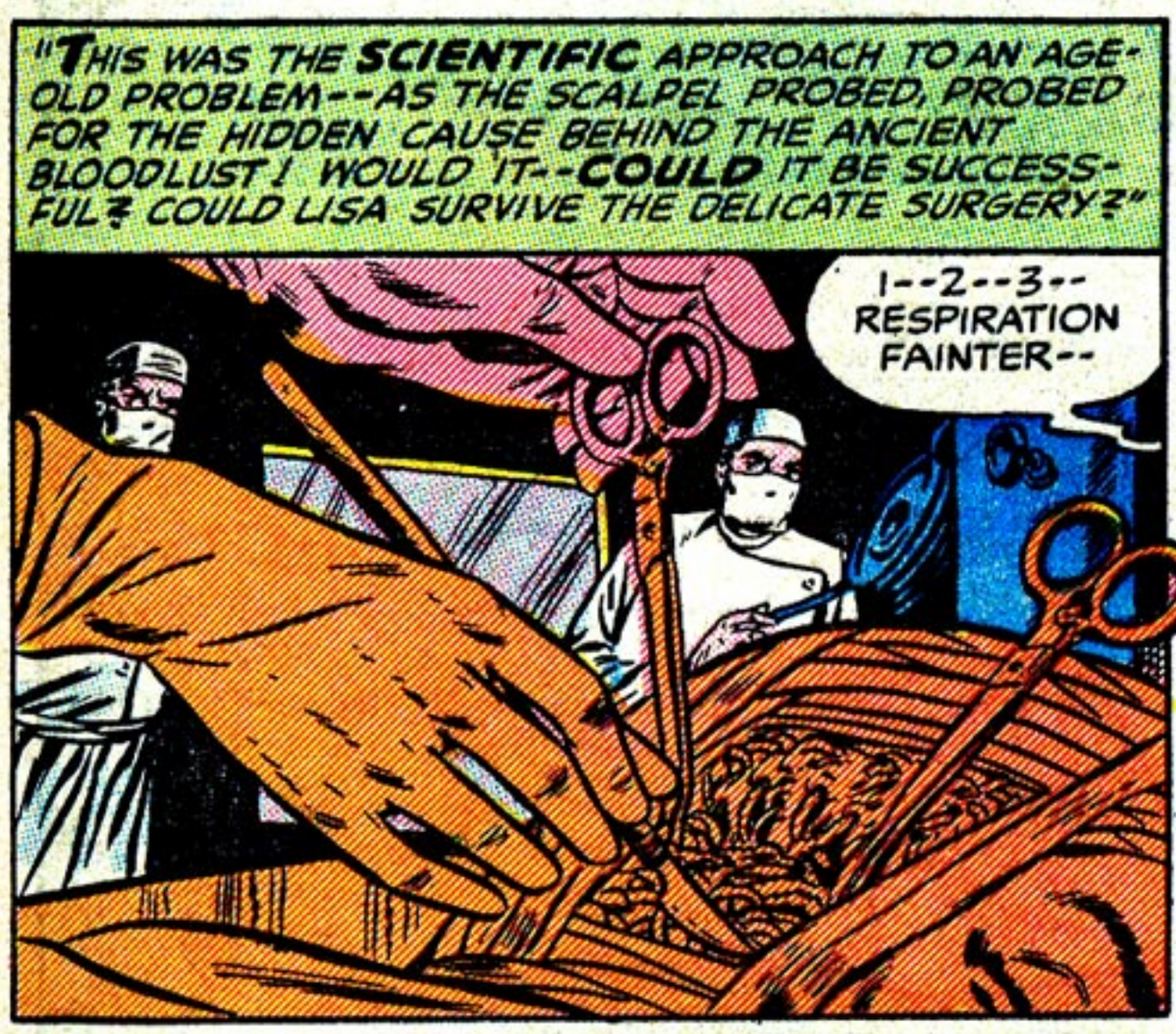

"THERE WAS NO PROOF--HE HAD TO WATCH HER! AND SO, TO WIN HER CONFIDENCE, JOE STARTED GOING OUT WITH HER--"
OH, JOE, I'M HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME!
SHE'S--WONDERFUL! WHAT A FOOL I WAS, THINKING THAT A LOVELY GIRL LIKE HER COULD BE IMPLICATED IN THIS BLOOD-STAINED CASE!


"IT WAS NO SURPRISE THAT LOVE BLOOMED BETWEEN THEM! OH, LISA WAS SINCERE ENOUGH--AND JOE WAS SAFE! YOU SEE--THERE WASN'T ANY FULL MOON THAT NIGHT!"
I--I LOVE YOU--
OH, DARLING-- MY DARLING--

"IT ALL CAME OUT THEN--AS A GUILTY CONSCIENCE REBELLED BENEATH THE ENCHANTMENT OF ROMANCE--"
I--I CAN'T REMAIN SILENT ANY LONGER! YOU'VE GOT TO FORGET YOU EVER KNEW ME, JOE! I'M A MURDERESS--A VAMPIRE WHO KILLS IN THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON!
LORD HELP ME, THEN IT'S--TRUE! AND I--I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO TURN YOU OVER TO THE LAW!

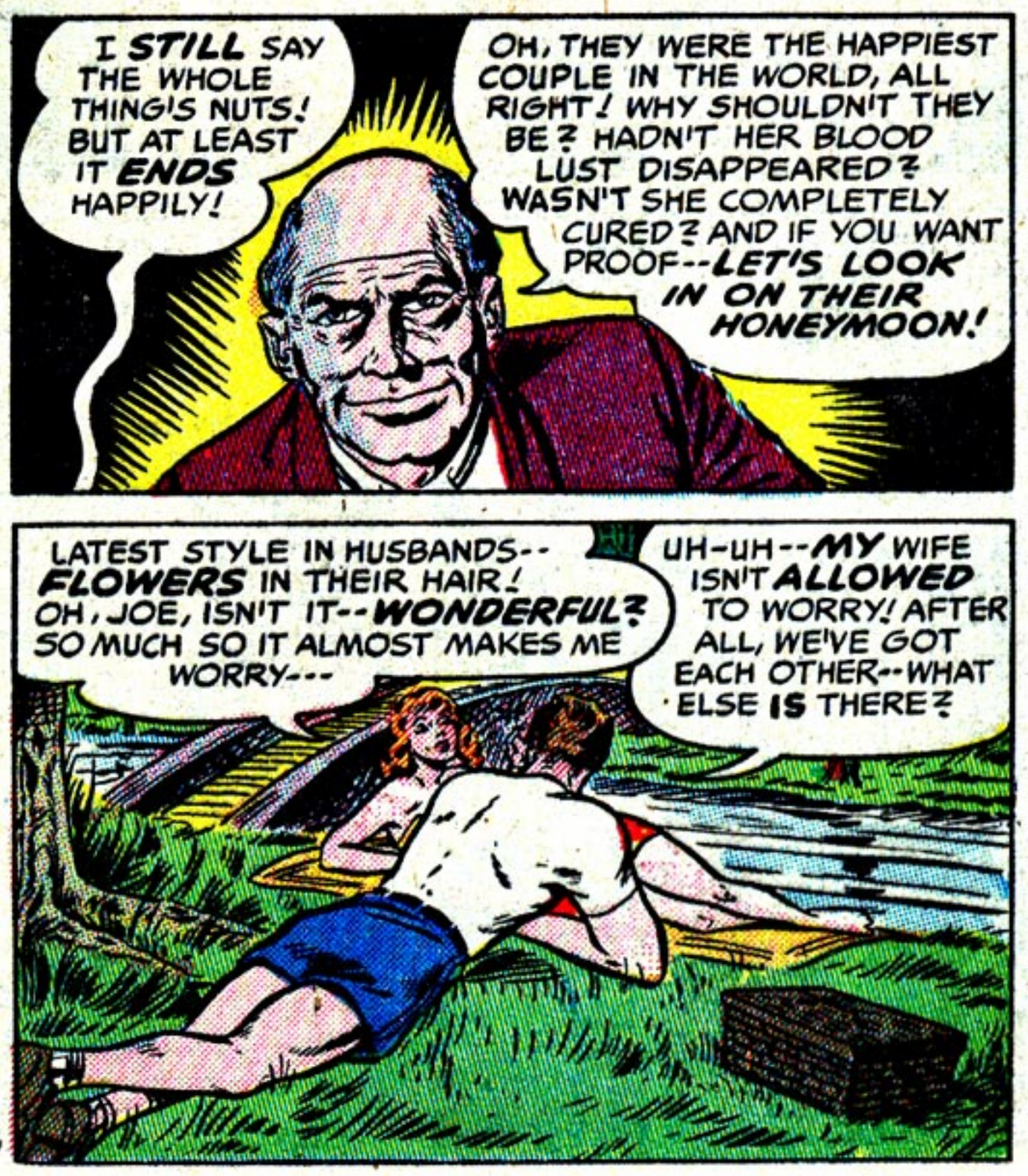
BUT THERE'S STILL ONE CHANCE, LISA! MY STUDIES HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT VAMPIRISM ISN'T SUPER-NATURAL, BUT PHYSICAL! THERE'S A DANGEROUS OPERATION TO REMOVE A FAULTY GLAND AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN--
I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE, JOE--FOR OUR LOVE!


"YES, FOR THEIR LOVE--AND TO WIPE AWAY THE BLOODSTAINED CURSE OF VAMPIRISM--"
IT'S GOING TO COME OUT ALL RIGHT, HONEY--IT'S GOT TO!
EVEN IF IT DOESN'T--JUST REMEMBER--WHAT YOU'VE MEANT TO ME!


"THIS WAS THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM--AS THE SCALPEL PROBED, PROBED FOR THE HIDDEN CAUSE BEHIND THE ANCIENT BLOODLUST! WOULD IT--COULD IT BE SUCCESS-FUL? COULD LISA SURVIVE THE DELICATE SURGERY?"
1--2--3--RESPIRATION FAINTER--

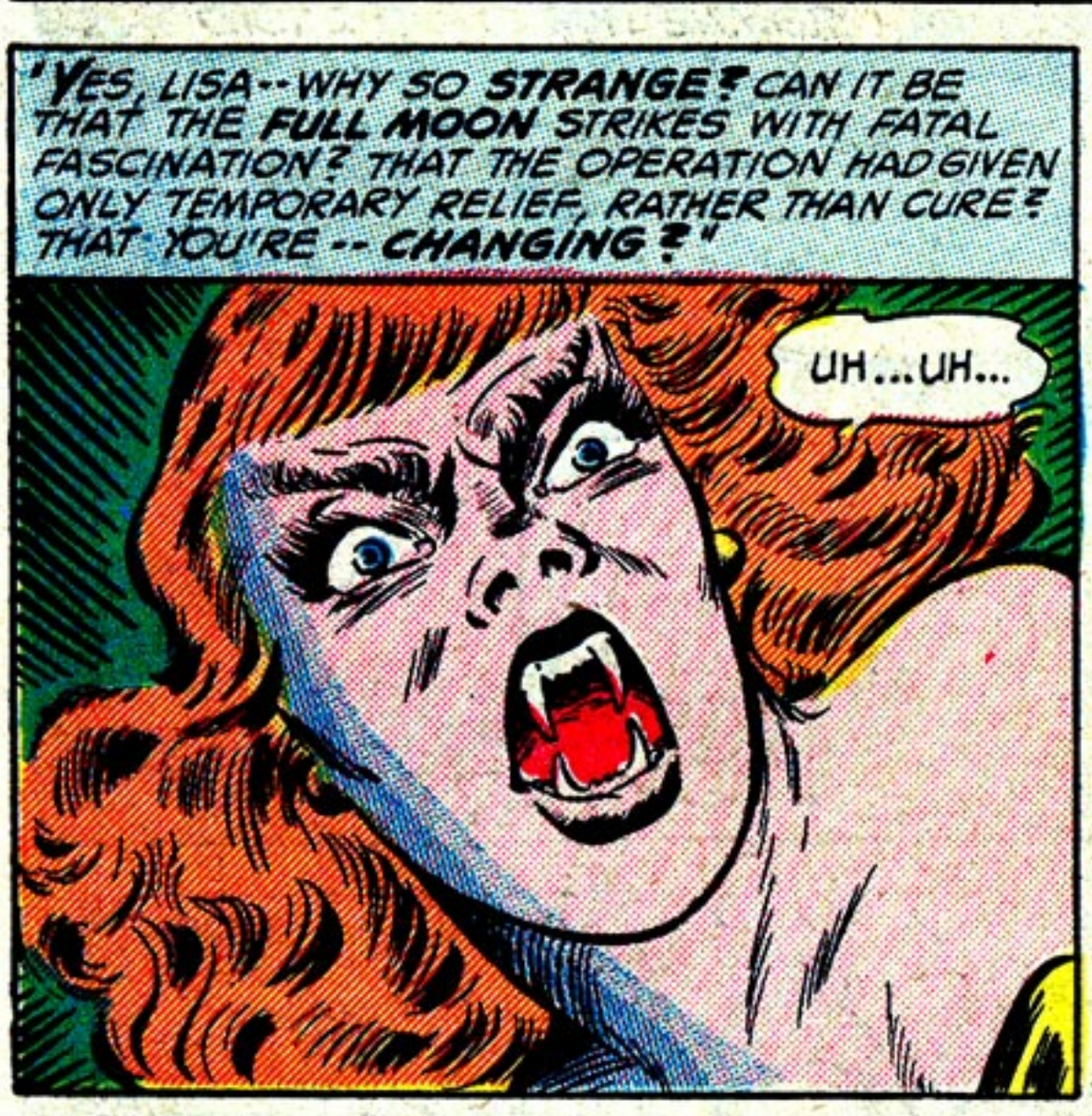
"BUT DAYS LATER--"
YOU--YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE, LISA! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS--THE SURGEONS WERE ABLE TO REMOVE THAT GLAND I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
OH, JOE, DARLING--IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO BE NORMAL--AND IN LOVE!

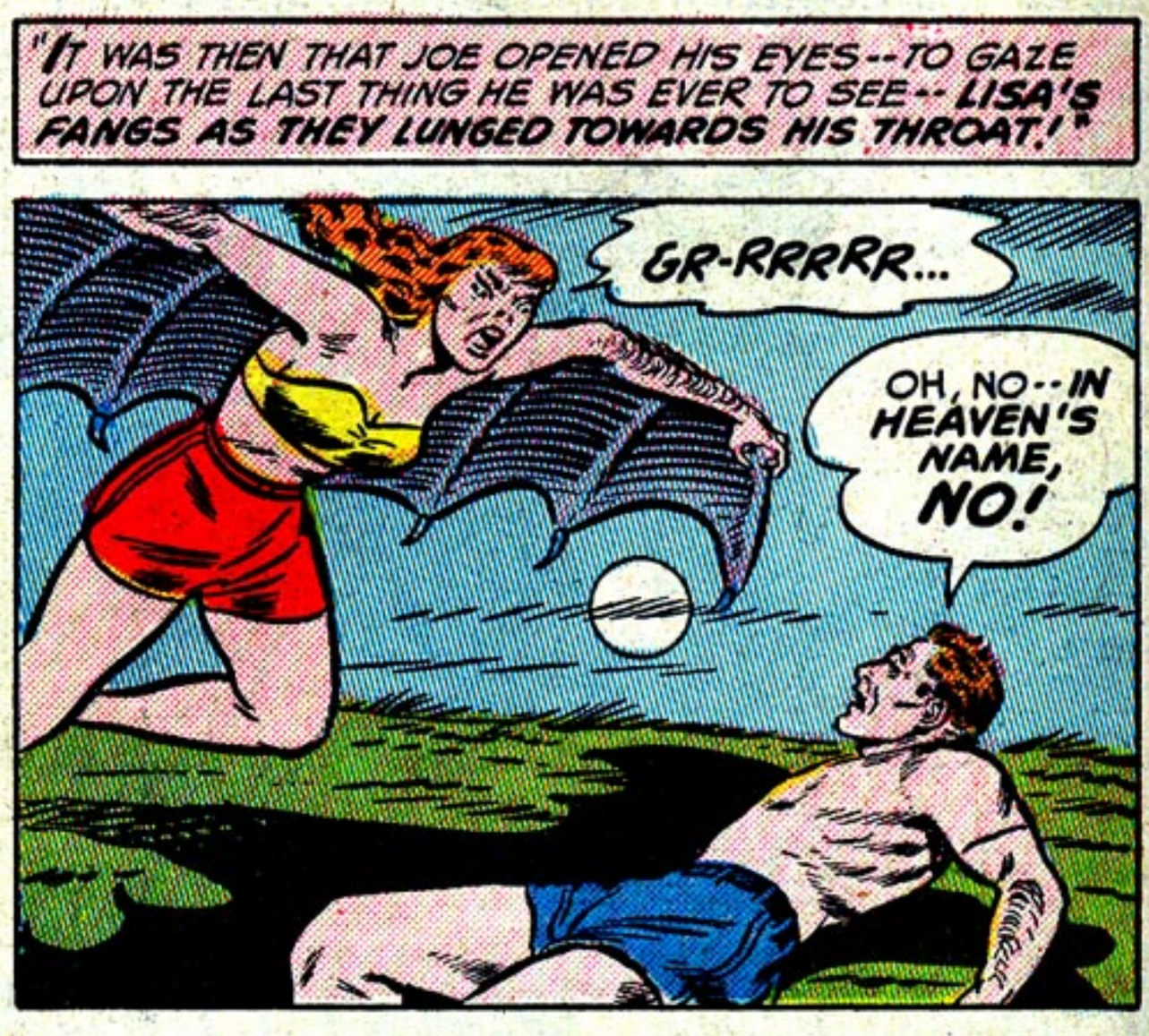
"YES, JUST TO BE A HEALTHY, HAPPY GIRL--TO MARRY THE MAN SHE IDOLIZED---"
...AND I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!


I STILL SAY THE WHOLE THING'S NUTS! BUT AT LEAST IT ENDS HAPPILY!
OH, THEY WERE THE HAPPIEST COUPLE IN THE WORLD, ALL RIGHT! WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE? HADN'T HER BLOOD LUST DISAPPEARED? WASN'T SHE COMPLETELY CURED? AND IF YOU WANT PROOF--LET'S LOOK IN ON THEIR HONEYMOON!
LATEST STYLE IN HUSBANDS--FLOWERS IN THEIR HAIR! OH, JOE, ISN'T IT--WONDERFUL? SO MUCH SO IT ALMOST MAKES ME WORRY---
UH-UH--MY WIFE ISN'T ALLOWED TO WORRY! AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER--WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

"HAPPILY THEY LINGERED IN THAT PEACEFUL SPOT AS DAY DIED! BEHIND THEM--THE FULL MOON ROSE--"
MY DARLING...

IF ONLY WE COULD STAY HERE FOREVER-- IF--UH--
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SWEETHEART? WHY DOES YOUR VOICE SOUND SO STRANGE?


"YES, LISA--WHY SO STRANGE? CAN IT BE THAT THE FULL MOON STRIKES WITH FATAL FASCINATION? THAT THE OPERATION HAD GIVEN ONLY TEMPORARY RELIEF, RATHER THAN CURE? THAT YOU'RE--CHANGING?"
UH...UH...


"IT WAS THEN THAT JOE OPENED HIS EYES--TO GAZE UPON THE LAST THING HE WAS EVER TO SEE--LISA'S FANGS AS THEY LUNGED TOWARDS HIS THROAT!"
GR-RRRRR...
OH, NO--IN HEAVEN'S NAME, NO!

SO THERE IT IS--AN AUTHENTIC CASE WHICH PROVES THAT VAMPIRES EXIST--AND SHOWS THAT THEY'RE DANGEROUS!
HA-HA-HA! VAMPIRES? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! THERE'S A FULL MOON NOW--AND DO YOU THINK I'M AFRAID?

YOU'RE--RIGHT! THERE IS A FULL MOON, ISN'T THERE--BUT YOU'RE NOT AFRAID!

NOT AFRAID--BUT YOU SHOULD BE! YOU SEE--I GET MY PREY FROM DOUBTERS LIKE YOU!
THE END

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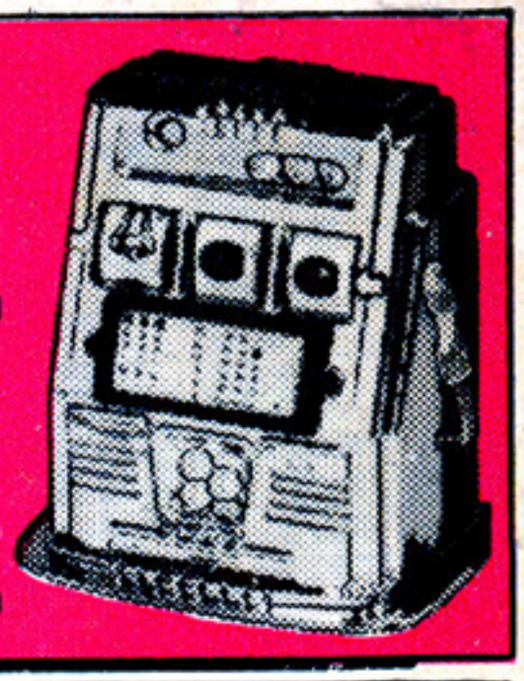

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